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Provisional

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Monday, 18 December 2000, 8 p.m.

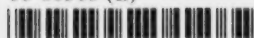
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahsan
	Canada	Mr. Heinbecker
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question

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The meeting was called to order at 8.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Israel, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite the representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Lancry (Israel) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 18 December 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, which will be issued as document S/2000/1206, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice, the Security Council invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the meeting of the Security Council to be held on Monday, 18 December 2000, with regard to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem."

I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to participate in the current debate in accordance with the rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior

consultations. Members of the Council have before them document S/2000/1171, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia and Tunisia.

The first speaker on my list is the representative of Israel, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Lancry (Israel): I would like to congratulate the President on his assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate his predecessor, Ambassador van Walsum, for his most capable leadership.

At the outset, I would like to express my satisfaction at the recent renewal of official high-level contacts between Israel and the Palestinians, in particular the agreement of both parties to attend meetings in Washington this week. It is my hope that by turning to the framework of negotiations we can peacefully find a way to resolve all outstanding issues, including the question under deliberation today.

We do think that the core of the matter is clear. Although many would have us believe otherwise, what we are witnessing is the deliberate choice by the Palestinian leadership to simultaneously pursue the intifada, as well as the welcome resumption of dialogue. The current confrontation, which was deliberately initiated by the Palestinian leadership, continues to be nurtured in various ways as a strategic choice on their part.

If there is any lingering doubt that this is in fact the case, I would invite the Council to ask itself who is benefiting here. Whose interest does it serve to perpetuate a variable-intensity conflict of the kind we have been experiencing? Even a cursory consideration of the facts suggests that this conflict clearly serves the interests of the Palestinian leadership rather than the interests of Israel. In the aftermath of the Camp David Summit, Chairman Arafat found himself increasingly isolated, even criticized in certain circles, for failing to be forthcoming in reaching a final peace agreement with Israel. Barely four months later, the Palestinian cause is the beneficiary of front-page coverage from the international media. While Israel has been unjustly portrayed as the militaristic aggressor, the Palestinian leadership has benefited tremendously by avoiding the implementation of the necessary steps to which it committed itself to bring about a final settlement.

It now seems as if the leading role that the Palestinian leadership has played in the current spate of violence is finally being admitted. The Palestinian semi-official daily *Al Ayyam* reported on 6 December that the Palestinian Minister of Telecommunications, Imad Al Falouji, confirmed that the Palestinian Authority had begun preparations for the outbreak of the current intifada from the moment the Camp David talks concluded, in accordance with instructions given by Chairman Arafat himself. Mr. Falouji went on to state that Arafat launched this intifada as the culminating stage of "Palestinian steadfastness" in the negotiations, and not merely as a protest against Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. Here is the original Arabic.

(spoke in Arabic)

"Imad Al Falouji, the Telecommunications Minister, stressed that the Palestinian Authority began preparations for the outbreak of the current intifada after returning from the Camp David negotiations, on the order of President Yasser Arafat, who anticipated the outbreak of the intifada as the culminating stage of Palestinian steadfastness in the negotiations and not merely as a protest against Sharon's visit to Haram al-Sharif."

(spoke in English)

Despite this and other overwhelming evidence, the Palestinian leadership has been remarkably successful in obscuring this fact. They have incited their street to violence and holy war, while at the same time placing full blame for the crisis on Israel's shoulders. This practice continued even as negotiations took place in Paris, Sharm el-Sheikh and Gaza on ways to end the confrontation and return to negotiations. Officials of the Palestinian Authority were quoted as calling for escalation at the same time as they accused Israel of horrific acts of war. They ordered their illegally armed militias to fire on Israeli soldiers and civilians in the same breath as they demanded that Israel renounce its right to self-defence. And now, while illegal Palestinian paramilitary groups continue their assaults on Israel, their leaders come to ask the world for protection. This is a manipulation of reality and a perversion of the truth.

It must be further noted that the current crisis is also due to the failure of the Palestinian leadership to cultivate mutual understanding and tolerance among

the Palestinian people. Rather than educate for peace, they have consistently and systematically fostered a culture of hatred and rejection, manifested in official Palestinian textbooks which deny the legitimacy of Israel. Such a failure cannot be rectified by a resolution of the Security Council, nor by any action of the international community. This state of affairs can be changed only by the Palestinians themselves. The peace process will succeed only if mutual recognition and non-violence is enshrined, not only on paper, but in the hearts and minds of peoples.

This is precisely what Chairman Arafat pledged to accomplish in September 1993 when he committed, in a watershed letter to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, to renouncing the use of violence and terrorism and to settling all outstanding claims through negotiations. This commitment was fundamental, and for Israelis it represented much more than mere verbiage. After years of PLO-sponsored terrorism, Chairman Arafat's letter reflected the recognition that, after decades of confrontation, the destiny of the region would now be determined at the negotiating table and not by violence and terrorism. Moreover, Chairman Arafat spoke on behalf of all the Palestinian people and was consequently recognized by Israel as their leader. He cannot now go back on his word and continue to receive international support as if he had not.

Today, however, both the Government and people of Israel are obliged to confront a stark reality, one which suggests that the Palestinian leadership remains ambiguous in its fulfilment of the basic commitment that formed the bedrock for seven years of peacemaking. Evidence of this departure was apparent weeks ago. The release of scores of Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists from Palestinian jails, an act which has now led to a number of terrorist bombings in Israeli cities, offers compelling proof, as do the activities of the Tanzim, the illegal paramilitary arm of Chairman Arafat's Fatah faction who have repeatedly directed live gunfire and roadside ambushes at Israeli soldiers and citizens. Even as the Palestinians ask the Council today for protection from the consequences of their own actions, they are making clear that they feel no obligation to fully relinquish the path of intifada, which is not an unarmed popular uprising, but rather a drawn-out expedition of guerrilla warfare.

And yet, with the exception of some rare — and therefore remarkable — voices in the Security Council, the United Nations has made no official mention of the

incitement to violence in the official media, of the green light given to terrorists by the Palestinian Authority, of the desecration of Jewish holy sites and of a host of other Palestinian violations. Instead, we are sitting here today debating the merits of sending an international force to protect the Palestinians from their own choice to engage in violence.

Today's draft resolution represents a blatant attempt to abuse the goodwill of the international community and to obscure the strategic choice made by the Palestinians. The Security Council must not be a party to it. The United Nations cannot be called upon to put out fires on behalf of the same party that has kindled them and fanned the flames. What kind of precedent would this set? What kind of message will it send to the Palestinians and others?

Our position on the question of an international presence has been made clear. We are not opposed to some form of international presence provided it is established within the context of a comprehensive bilateral agreement. This has always been the accepted sequence. An international presence is not something we intrinsically reject, but it must be used to cement an agreement, not as an alternative to one.

The Council must be cognizant of the fact that sending a United Nations force, as demanded, has the potential to actually escalate the violence and further destabilize the region, for it would send a message to the Palestinians that there is no need to negotiate or coordinate with Israel and no need to seek compromise. Indeed, I can think of no greater incentive than this to continue the caustic struggle. Thus, peace and security would not be enhanced by an international force; they would be undermined. If the international community wishes to see a return to dialogue and negotiation and the ultimate realization of the legitimate aspirations and needs of both parties through a peaceful process, it must insist that the Palestinian leadership fulfil its obligations. This Council must not take action that would be interpreted as endorsing violence and unilateral imposition.

Furthermore, international intervention appears wholly unnecessary. Chairman Arafat has the ability to protect the lives of his people, and the steps necessary to do so are clear. He must relinquish the path of confrontation, disarm his illegal militias and control Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists, all of which he has already committed himself to do. Furthermore, he must

assume his responsibility as the leader of the Palestinian people, committed by his own free choice to seek an honourable peace, to uphold the foundation of the peace process and to foster a culture of peace between our two peoples. I assure the members of this Council that were the Palestinian Authority to take these steps, the violence, death and injuries would cease and we could once again focus on negotiating a lasting peace settlement.

Yet the Palestinian Authority prefers the safety of ambiguity, a fact that has even been recognized in some Arab circles. Egyptian commentator Mahmoud Al-Manem Morad, writing in *al-Akhbar* on 1 December, was moved to ask,

"How is it that the Palestinians are seeking the deployment of an observer force which will act as a buffer between themselves and the Israelis, if, in the same breath, they also seek to continue the intifada, which will require close contact between the Palestinians and Israelis?"

Let me repeat: the current intifada is not an unarmed popular uprising, but a guerrilla campaign, which the Palestinians have little interest in having brought to a close. We maintain that just as the current violence began with a calculated and deliberate order from the highest echelons of the Palestinian leadership, so must it end. The Palestinians are not in need of protection from Israel, but rather from the misguided policies of their own leaders.

What is needed from the Security Council is not intervention, but support for the parties and the efforts to achieve peace that will get under way this week in Washington. Protection forces, United Nations observers — all these only distract us from the real issues at hand. The Palestinian Authority's perpetual ambiguity with regard to ending the violence is indicative of a lack of fortitude and political will on their part to make the historic compromises that are needed. An international force will not increase the Palestinian determination to make peace; rather, it will decrease their willingness to do so.

The Council's overriding objective must be to encourage both sides to embrace the reasonable peace. I would urge the Council to consider whether sending an international force to the region will advance this goal. The draft resolution before us today is a recipe for long-term instability in the region, and I therefore

strongly urge the members of the Council not to support it.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank the representative of Israel for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Ukraine.

On 7 October, the Security Council adopted resolution 1322 (2000), which, *inter alia*, condemned the violence, especially the excessive use of force, against Palestinians. It also called for the cessation of violence and called upon Israel to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

However, the violence has continued and the Council has not taken any action to address the situation. It was in this regard that the NAM caucus some weeks ago proposed the establishment of a protection force for Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. After extensive consultations, it was decided to change the proposed force to an observer force. It is our strong conviction that such a force would not only protect civilians, but would have a stabilizing effect on the situation in the region. We will always maintain that peace will benefit both Palestinians and Israelis.

The NAM caucus, under all circumstances, endeavoured to engage all Council members and, in particular, had useful exchanges with the French and United Kingdom delegations, and we thank them for that. The caucus had, on request, delayed action on the draft resolution several times to accommodate the views of other members, and in particular to give the Secretary-General and other actors involved in mediating the situation an opportunity to proceed with their efforts.

The caucus has furthermore amended its own draft several times to accommodate the views of other members. The latest amendments include a substantive change in operative paragraph 3, which now, instead of deciding to establish a United Nations observer force, only expresses the Council's determination to establish such a force. This clearly takes into consideration other actors involved. The draft resolution therefore contains the minimum action that the Council should take, bearing in mind the tragic situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The argument has been advanced that the Council should wait for bilateral peace efforts to run their course before action is taken on this draft resolution. It has also been suggested that the consent of both parties is required before an observer force can be established. We strongly disagree with both those views. We do not believe that Council action is subject to peace negotiations, although we actively support those initiatives. The Council has its own important responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. By establishing the observer force, the Council can substantially contribute towards stabilizing the situation in the region. We also do not believe that the consent of the parties is required to establish the force, but we agree that their cooperation is needed.

The Non-Aligned Movement strongly supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to get the peace process in the Middle East back on track. We also strongly support the efforts of all the other players involved. The Non-Aligned Movement, however, believes that the Council has its own role to play in these circumstances. It is in that regard that we have submitted this draft resolution, which is balanced. The members of the Non-Aligned Movement and Ukraine will therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): Several weeks ago, France proposed that an observer mission be sent to the Palestine territories to contribute to ending the violence and to protecting civilians. The violence has claimed far too many victims, most of them Palestinians. I want to repeat here how moved we are by that tragic toll, and that we condemn the excessive use of force.

Over the past few weeks, France, along with the United Kingdom, has tenaciously argued in favour of an agreement on creating an observer mission. On 17

November, on the basis of a French proposal, the Council unanimously entrusted Mr. Kofi Annan with

"the task of conducting consultations with the two parties ... to examine the possibility of, and define acceptable modalities for, the presence of United Nations observers in the territories".
(S/PV.4226 (closed)).

On that basis, the Secretary-General initiated contacts with the parties, and last Friday he informed us that he intended resolutely to pursue them. On 8 December, at Nice, the European Council, on a French initiative, spoke out along the same lines.

The bilateral dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian leaders has resumed, and it will continue in coming days at Washington. Mr. Védérine's recent visit to the region contributed to that outcome.

In that context, France wonders about the timeliness of adopting this evening the draft resolution upon which we are to vote. I wish to stress that France has no difficulty with the substance of the text, and I wish to thank the non-aligned members of the Council, with which we have worked in the most constructive spirit. But France considers that, in the light of the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and of the resumption of bilateral negotiations, this is not the most suitable time; we would have preferred to await the outcome of the ongoing discussions before proceeding any further. For that reason, and that reason alone, my delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution before the Council.

In no way is France giving up the possibility of sending observers, which we consider to be more necessary than ever before. Just as we have always done in the past, we shall continue to make every effort to promote peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Namibia, who spoke also in his capacity as coordinator of the non-aligned caucus.

My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution, of which we are a sponsor, because we strongly believe that the Council must act to stop the killing of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. It is more than two months since the current situation began, and to date more than 300 Palestinian civilians have been killed and many thousands wounded at the hands of Israeli security forces, who,

despite Council resolution 1322 (2000) of 7 October 2000, continue to use excessive and disproportionate force. The match is clearly an uneven one: stones and catapults against automatic rifles, artillery, tanks and helicopter gunships. The Council cannot continue to watch from the sidelines and do practically nothing.

The Security Council, which is quick to intervene in other conflict situations and to protect civilians caught in other armed conflicts, must now do the same to defuse the situation and to provide a modicum of protection for the Palestinian civilians. For the Council not to do so after more than two months would be a dereliction of its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The negotiations on the text of the draft resolution before us have been protracted, covering several weeks. The sponsors of the draft resolution have demonstrated their flexibility and their spirit of accommodation. Deadline after deadline has been given, and the sponsors have indicated their preparedness to consider concrete proposals on the text. Unfortunately, to date, no concrete counterproposals on language or amendments have been made, which only shows that there is a lack of seriousness on the part of some members of the Council with respect to considering the text.

Those opposed to the Council taking action on the draft resolution have argued for more time to allow for the two parties, that is Israel and Palestine, to arrive at an agreement between themselves over larger issues, which might include the establishment of such a monitoring force. But that is subjecting the establishment of a United Nations force to the vagaries of a tortuous and uncertain peace process. In the process, the killing of Palestinian civilians will continue unchecked, and the toll in terms of deaths and injuries will mount over the coming days and weeks. That is clearly unacceptable to my delegation and to the other sponsors of the draft resolution.

The proposed monitoring force is intended to calm the situation on the ground so that further deaths and injuries can be avoided. Indeed, such a monitoring force would be an important confidence-building measure, which would in fact contribute constructively to the peace process. It was for that purpose that my Minister for Foreign Affairs travelled to New York, along with several of his colleagues from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), under

the leadership of the Foreign Minister of Qatar, representing the chairmanship of the OIC summit. My minister and his colleagues addressed the Council and made a strong plea for the establishment of a United Nations protection force. They were honoured to have been able to address the Council, and had hoped that their pleas would have convinced members of the Council to take action to create such a force.

The idea of a United Nations protection force was also directly addressed by President Yasser Arafat when he came to the Council on 10 November to make his case. It is therefore a matter of deep regret and profound dismay that, in spite of modifications made to the original proposal and the flexibility shown by the sponsors of the draft resolution, there was no concrete engagement by those that are opposed to the proposal, other than their saying that the time is not opportune. But when is the opportune time? We believe that such an opportune time will not come in the foreseeable future, if at all, as long as Israel, the occupying Power, cannot accept such a monitoring force. From what we have just heard, such a force is clearly unacceptable to Israel, except, perhaps — and it is a big perhaps — in the context of a comprehensive bilateral peace agreement with the Palestinians, whenever that may be arrived at.

We do not believe that the fate of such an important — indeed, indispensable — United Nations monitoring force should be subject to the uncertainties of the peace process. We believe that if the Council is serious about establishing such a monitoring force, now — not some uncertain date in the future — is the time to do it.

May I conclude by expressing my delegation's deep and sincere appreciation for the diplomatic efforts undertaken by the European Union, specifically by Foreign Minister Védre of France. We thank him for the efforts made, but regret that, given the ongoing violence and the slaying of civilians in the occupied territories, which continue unabated, my delegation and the other sponsors of the draft resolution do not have the luxury or the patience to wait out what is likely to be a long, protracted process.

We also support the efforts of the Secretary-General, but we believe that such efforts can be pursued in parallel with the efforts of the Council. We do not believe that these efforts contradict each other.

Mr. Hamer (Netherlands): The Netherlands agrees with the principle objective of the present draft resolution, which is the establishment of the United Nations observer force in the Middle East. Such a United Nations presence could be useful, because it is clear that the parties themselves are not currently capable of bringing about the necessary de-escalation. Nevertheless, the Netherlands will abstain on this draft resolution. We feel strongly that its adoption now would critically undermine attempts at convincing the parties to accept such a United Nations observer force. Moreover, this draft resolution may hinder ongoing efforts to achieve what is our first priority, namely, the successful resumption of the peace talks themselves. In the light of the caution urged on us by the Secretary-General last week on precisely these points, we are disappointed that the Council is being forced to vote on this draft resolution at this moment.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (spoke in Chinese): Two months have elapsed since the most recent outbreak of conflict between Palestine and Israel, with casualties on both sides, but with heavy civilian injuries on the Palestinian side in particular. The Israeli blockade has subjected the large civilian population of Palestine to hardship in their daily life. To date, there has been no sign of a de-escalation of the situation on the ground. The peace process in the Middle East is therefore faced with a severe test.

China is deeply concerned about the situation and reiterates its opposition to violent activities of any kind. China calls upon both parties to stay calm and heed reason and, in the fundamental and long-term interests of the peoples of the region, to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the situation from worsening further.

The Security Council has recently been discussing the possibility of dispatching United Nations or international observers to the region. In an effort to defuse the conflict between Palestine and Israel and to maintain peace and security in the Middle East, the Security Council should effectively fulfil its responsibilities, as mandated by the United Nations Charter. Not only would that be in the interests of Palestine and Israel, but it is the ardent hope of the majority of the States Members of the United Nations. The Chinese Government has therefore steadfastly worked to achieve the goal of dispatching observers to the region. We support the draft resolution submitted to the Council by the Non-Aligned Movement caucus. We

hope that the United Nations observers can be deployed to the region as soon as possible.

We will continue our support for the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General and all the parties concerned, and stand ready to make our own contribution to putting an end to the violent situation and restoring the peace process in the Middle East.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us today. We base our position on the assessment that the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian military confrontation has brought the situation in the Middle East to its most critical stage in the past few decades. Like many others, we are convinced that in current circumstances, the presence of a third party, representing the international community, on the ground, is critically important to prevent the whole region from sliding into an abyss of war. My delegation believes that action today by the Security Council is indispensable to address the situation in an appropriate manner. The very fact of the adoption by the Security Council of a draft resolution expressing its determination to establish a United Nations force of military and police observers in the Palestinian territory could contribute to topping the continuing senseless bloodshed.

If adopted, today's draft resolution will contribute to the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at stopping all acts of violence and excessive use of force in the Palestinian territory and Israel. The draft resolution provides a strong encouragement to the parties to implement the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings faithfully and without further delay. In our judgement, the main thrust of the draft is largely in line with the positive signs that have emerged during the past few days in terms of the resumption of peace talks between the two sides. We look forward to the outcome of the forthcoming talks in Washington.

While we are supportive of the current draft, it is our understanding, however, that its practical implementation would require additional time and diplomatic efforts. As a contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations for the past eight years, Ukraine fully recognizes that the deployment and functioning of a United Nations force in the Palestinian territory will be impossible without the cooperation of Israel.

It is important that draft requests the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the parties on

the details of the acceptable composition and modalities for this force in order to reach a compromise solution and secure full cooperation.

Lastly, I would like to put on record that today's vote by Ukraine is not prejudicial to one of the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping, that is, the consent of the conflicting parties to the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): My delegation associates itself fully with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the non-aligned caucus. I would nevertheless like to make three brief observations.

First of all, I would like to say that Mali will vote in favour of the draft resolution under consideration because we believe that the Security Council must take a decision in the face of the tragic and violent events that have been taking place in the Palestinian territories since 28 September, which have taken many victims, mainly Palestinians. We must act to put an end to the violence. We must bring an end to the excessive use of force. We must ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians. It is for these reasons that we fully support the creation of an observer force. We believe that the deployment of such a force will contribute to stabilizing the situation while being of great benefit to the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations.

Secondly, I would like to underscore the fact that Mali continues to fully support the peace process as a whole. In that connection, we are pleased with the resumption of the bilateral dialogue between the parties. We hope that the ongoing diplomatic efforts will bring about concrete results consistent with the Sharm el-Sheikh and earlier agreements.

Thirdly, and lastly, I would like to say that my delegation regrets that, despite the great degree of flexibility demonstrated by the sponsors, no consensus was achieved on the draft resolution on which we are about to vote. We consider that the text of the draft resolution is balanced and that it seeks to find common ground between the parties by giving the Secretary-General a leading role.

My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

Mr. Listre (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation supported the ideas presented by France here in the Council regarding the establishment of an

observer force in the West Bank and Gaza that would have three objectives. First, that force would monitor in the field the development of the tragic events that have been taking place without interruption since Ariel Sharon's visit to Al-Haram Al-Sharif on the fateful date of 28 September 2000. Secondly, the force would inform the Secretary-General and the Security Council about those developments. Thirdly, it would employ good offices between the parties to avoid an escalation of the conflict and, more importantly, to contribute to de-escalating it and ending the violence. At that time we said that, for practical reasons and because of the particular situation in the occupied territories, a mission of this type would have to have the consent of the parties. Unfortunately, consensus has not been achieved to make it possible for the Council to draw up and adopt a resolution in keeping with those guidelines.

My delegation also has reservations about the timeliness of the draft resolution under consideration at a time when it appears that negotiations towards a peace settlement may resume, and that is the only way to resolve this tragic conflict. We are also concerned about the effectiveness of the draft resolution. We wonder whether the draft resolution before us will be effective in promoting the peace process through negotiations between the parties. It is for these reasons that Argentina will abstain in the voting on this draft resolution.

Nevertheless, we cannot fail to express our solidarity with the suffering of the Palestinian people. As this may be the last meeting of the Council in which we will participate during our current term of membership, we must also take this opportunity to appeal to the parties to be committed, flexible and generous — qualities that should be demonstrated by the stronger party in particular. We believe that acting with greatness, magnanimity and a sense of history at the peace table, instead of with meanness and pettiness, is the way to achieve peace, for which there is no alternative. There can be no winners in this conflict through the use of force; there will be only losers.

Given the possibility of a resumption of direct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which we welcome, we nevertheless believe that many things have occurred since the parties last met. We cannot continue to go round in circles while being reticent and making pusillanimous calculations. We call on the parties to reach an agreement in which they

each recognize the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to organize itself as an independent State, as well as Israel's right to live within internationally recognized and secure borders. In order to ensure the agreement we all call for, the United Nations must be involved. The Organization can count on Argentina's support.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2000/1171.

A vote was taken by a show of hands.

In favour:

Bangladesh, China, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Canada, France, Netherlands, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The result of the voting is as follows: 8 votes in favour, none against and 7 abstentions. The draft resolution has not been adopted because it did not obtain the required majority.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make a statement after the voting.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): The Jamaican delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Namibia in his capacity as coordinator of the non-aligned caucus in the Security Council.

Jamaica voted in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2000/1171, in which the Council would have expressed its determination to establish a United Nations force of military and police observers to be dispatched throughout the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, with the aim of contributing to the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreements, the cessation of violence and enhancing the safety and security of Palestinian civilians.

My delegation is deeply disappointed that the draft resolution did not receive the necessary votes to enable its adoption. We believe that the adoption of the draft resolution and the subsequent deployment of the

United Nations observer force could have served as a deterrent to further violence and as a confidence-building measure between the parties, and furthered the implementation of Security Council resolution 1322 (2000).

We remain concerned at the increasing number of casualties and injuries — for the most part among the Palestinian civilian population, especially children — as well as at the serious humanitarian and economic situation.

The Jamaican delegation commends the strenuous diplomatic activities of the Secretary-General, as well as of leaders of several countries, to restart the peace process. We are therefore pleased to learn that the parties have agreed to attend discussions in Washington, D.C., later this week under the aegis of the President of the United States. It is against that background, and within the context of the Council's responsibility for international peace and security, that Jamaica co-sponsored the draft resolution contained in document S/2000/1171. It will be noted that the draft requested the Secretary-General to consult both sides on the modalities of the deployment and functioning of such a force, and to report to the Council no later than 8 January 2001. Only then would a decision on further action have been taken.

Jamaica continues to encourage an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through an active negotiating process that takes into account the right to security of all the States in the region, including Israel, as well as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We will continue to support the efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace within the framework of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). We believe that the establishment of a United Nations force of military and police observers would have contributed to this process.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): We are meeting on the most difficult issue at the most difficult time. And although there are distinct differences among members of the Council, I warmly appreciate the effort that all — particularly members of the Non-Aligned Movement caucus — have made to try to find a common way forward.

The level of violence in the region is gravely disturbing, and the resulting number of civilian deaths and injuries, overwhelmingly in the Palestinian community, is unacceptable. The United Kingdom

believes that an observer mission in the West Bank and Gaza could be of benefit to both parties. The presence of objective witnesses could serve to calm the violence and help both sides take the necessary steps back from confrontation. We have worked with other delegations around this table and with the Secretary-General to try to reach agreement on the steps that would allow such a mission to be established, and we are glad to have worked particularly closely with the delegation of France.

It is too early to give up on this aim. We firmly believe that trying to impose observers against the wishes of one party would in practice be fruitless. We therefore abstained on the draft resolution under consideration, because we believe that it cannot be implemented without further work to build confidence and because we feel that bringing it to a decision today makes the establishment of a mission less rather than more likely.

We remain ready to engage on a proposal that can find consensus. What is important now is to concentrate our efforts on supporting the direct dialogue which has resumed between the parties and which offers the best hope for a just and lasting peace in the region based on resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

The resumption of talks in Washington this week demonstrates the importance both sides place on finding a lasting solution, and we hope the parties will not allow the result this evening to detract from their ongoing efforts to find peace. The prospects for these remain our primary criterion and have guided our approach on the proposal which we have considered today.

Mr. Heinbecker (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada is deeply concerned about the cycle of violence in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. This violence mocks the safety of the inhabitants and their communities. We are firmly committed to support the protection of all civilians.

(*spoke in English*)

The experience of peacekeeping has taught us the value of clear and achievable mandates. We do not believe that this draft mandate meets either test. Canada would welcome any initiative — including the concept of an observation or monitoring force — that would succeed in stabilizing the situation in the region

and promote the protection of non-combatants. But Canada believes that both the eventual deployment and the effective operation of such a force would be jeopardized if the Council were to press ahead now, without the acceptance of both parties being assured and an appropriate mandate being developed. Nor do we believe that the time is right for this resolution. For these reasons Canada has abstained on the draft resolution.

We are certain that the Security Council should continue to support the Secretary-General in his efforts, as mandated by the Council, to explore options with the parties for bringing an end to the violence and getting them back to the negotiating table. We are encouraged by the decision of the parties to resume talks under the guidance of the United States. Canada has long advocated such dialogue as the only avenue to a just and comprehensive settlement based on resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). In our view, the Council should remain prepared to assist this process, including with an observer or monitoring mission, should one be accepted by both parties.

Mr. Cunningham (United States): The Council has acted wisely this evening on an ill-timed and inappropriate draft resolution. The draft resolution failed because it lacks sufficient support, as the vote shows. Had there been a chance of it passing, my delegation would have cast a veto.

The Council's lack of support for and refusal to adopt the proposed resolution is an important signal. Now is the time to support renewal of negotiations and dialogue, and not for actions that will not in fact advance the cause of peace and that do not have the consent of the parties.

Israeli and Palestinian delegations arrived tonight in Washington and talks begin tomorrow. We will work hard to help rebuild confidence and trust and to restore dialogue, and we will also work hard to support what Palestinians and Israelis agree would be useful. That should be our common focus, and that will have the most positive and salutary effect on the ground.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I will now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Russian Federation.

From the very beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli crisis, the Russian Federation has condemned the violence and the excessive use of force and has done its

utmost to put a stop to these actions and to resume the peace process. To this end, the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Mr. Putin and Mr. Ivanov, have been in constant contact with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, leaders of other interested Governments and the Secretary-General. These contacts are continuing at this time.

We note that the combined efforts of the international community to overcome the crisis on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip are beginning to bear fruit. As has been announced, proximity talks between officially authorized Israeli and Palestinian delegations will begin on 19 December in Washington. Perhaps this will prove to be a significant step towards resuming direct dialogue. We expect that it will allow progress to be made towards providing international protection for the Palestinian civilian population on the West Bank and in Gaza — an objective we fully subscribe to and which perhaps realistically can only be achieved if both the Palestinians and the Israelis consent to it.

We deem it particularly important, therefore, at this crucial stage not to take measures that would further complicate the diplomatic efforts undertaken and exacerbate the situation without making it possible to get closer to the objective of protection — specifically, the protection of Palestinian civilians.

In view of all of these factors, the delegation of the Russian Federation abstained in the voting on the draft resolution. That decision was not an easy one for us, as a sponsor of the peace process. However, we are convinced that the only way to act is with the consent of both parties. We believe that an international presence in the occupied Palestinian territories can be ensured only if the two parties agree on the conditions. We will continue to try to achieve that objective.

In more general terms, we will continue to undertake efforts to try to find an early settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis on the basis of what has been agreed between the parties to the conflict and with the support of the international community.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the Permanent Observer of Palestine.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine) (spoke in Arabic): I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, and I extend my gratitude to your predecessor.

Regrettably, the draft resolution was not adopted. In our view, this is a sad day for the Security Council.

First of all, we would like to extend our sincere thanks, on behalf of the Palestinian people, to the non-aligned States members of the Security Council — Bangladesh, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia and Tunisia. We would like also sincerely to thank Ukraine and China for having voted in favour of the draft resolution, together with its sponsors. We deeply appreciate their position of principle and their strong sense of responsibility vis-à-vis the events that have taken place in our occupied territories, where Israel, since 28 September last, has been waging a bloody military campaign against our Palestinian people.

More than 300 Palestinians have been killed at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces, and more than 10,000 have been injured, one third of them children under 18. The destruction and sabotage of our property continues, as does the siege. Yet today the representative of Israel comes to us with yet another statement that does not respect the intelligence of the international community and tries our patience and tolerance. We can only condemn that statement and all of its contents.

All of this is taking place despite the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1322 (2000) on 7 October last and despite the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 October last, during its resumed tenth emergency special session.

The Palestinian people and the Arab countries, as well as the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, have requested adequate protection for the Palestinian people through the establishment of a United Nations observer force. We have been moving, patiently and slowly, in that direction in the Security Council since 25 October last.

We have attempted to deal with all the parties concerned in order to reach an agreement. During that period, President Arafat personally came to New York and met with the Council, as did the members of the Ministerial Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Representatives of the Non-

Aligned Movement also came to New York more than once during that time.

The Security Council held an open meeting on the situation, as well as a number of informal consultations. Despite all of this, however, the bloody Israeli campaign against our people and against Palestinian civilians continued, making the need even greater for adequate international protection for those innocent civilians, or, at the very least, for a contribution towards providing such protection through a United Nations observer force.

The non-aligned caucus in the Security Council submitted its draft, after making certain important changes to it. The draft's sponsors showed a great deal of flexibility in dealing with the other members of the Security Council, with a view to reaching an agreement. Among other things, they accepted the idea of a two-phased approach, as proposed by other members of the Security Council. They were also willing to accept further changes so as to increase the level of support, if not achieve agreement and consensus. That willingness extended to postponing the adoption of a draft resolution based on specific demands by specific members of the Council.

But our people have continued to ask important questions. Why is this taking so long? Why is the international community allowing Israel, the occupying force, to continue to oppress our people? Why do some suggest the idea of getting the approval of the occupying force, although the issue involves occupied territories that are not under the sovereignty of the Israeli occupying force?

Along with the sponsors of the draft resolution, we demonstrated great flexibility up to the last minute. The sponsors introduced further changes in the draft. Nevertheless, none of this was enough to change the final result.

We were then obliged to take a necessary decision. We did so with extreme difficulty, with the highest sense of the responsibility required by realities in the Security Council and on the ground in our occupied territories, and in the absence of any other practical options. We asked our friends in the Security Council to submit the draft resolution to a vote, regardless of the result of the voting, so as to confront the Security Council with its responsibilities and to show our people their options for action. Once again,

we highly appreciate our friends' clear request to hold a vote on the draft resolution.

The obvious result now is that the Security Council has shown itself unable or as yet unprepared to take even a minimal step to establish a United Nations observer force to protect Palestinian civilians, despite the horrific material and human losses and the ongoing siege. Some have tried to suggest that their positions are connected with tomorrow's resumption of the talks. In our view, that is incorrect. Events in Washington should not preclude action in the Security Council. On the contrary, the Council's successful adoption of the right decision could only help the projected talks, which can achieve no agreement that can be implemented without the essential measures addressing the situation on the ground.

The representative of Israel informed us today that his country does not object in principle to a foreign presence. By this, he is in fact telling us that this Council should understand that it can do nothing without his approval. We have not accepted and will not accept Israel's approval as a precondition for the Security Council's assumption of its responsibilities.

In our view, the result which the Security Council achieved today has only one explanation and one cause — the position of the United States, which is openly and surprisingly linked to that of Israel, the occupying force, and the heavy pressure exerted by the United States on all the other members of the Security Council. Regardless of whether the United States used the veto or found another solution to prevent the adoption of the draft resolution, as we have just heard, the result is the same.

We say with all due respect that some members, our friends, have taken positions that have occasionally varied. Others have taken positions that we could not understand, at times rejecting texts that they had previously proposed. The reason for this is no mystery. Once again, we believe that the main cause — and there could be others — is the position of the great Power and its influence in this Security Council.

For us, this phase of the Security Council's work is over. We feel no shame, and our friends should feel no shame, that we have not succeeded in adopting a resolution today. The results of today's action will not absolve the Security Council of its responsibility for events in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. Today's actions have persuaded the Palestinians and other Arabs that they cannot rely on the Security Council for justice. It would seem that the Security Council takes action only in issues involving the enemies of the United States, not, of course, in issues involving Israel, despite that country's violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, international humanitarian law and Security Council and other United Nations resolutions.

There is not one noble objective declared by the international community that Israel has not contradicted, such as the protection of human rights, of civilians in times of war and of the vulnerable, particularly children, or the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and so on. Nevertheless, all these rejections are ignored when the situation involves Israel. That is the pattern of automatic protection prevailing here.

I cannot determine the consequences of the Security Council's failure to fulfil its duties on the ground, nor can I foretell the price that will be paid by Palestinian civilians under the continued Israeli campaign or its repercussions throughout the region. We can only expect things to remain bad, but we still hope that justice and peace will ultimately prevail.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank the Permanent Observer of Palestine for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 9.40 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

*Provisional***4249**th meeting

Tuesday, 19 December 2000, 11.35 a.m.

New York

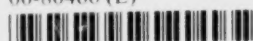
<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Heinbecker
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Toure
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchynski
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2000/1196).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.



The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S 2000/1196)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Yugoslavia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Mr. Goran Svilanovic.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Svilanovic (Yugoslavia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, document S/2000/1196.

The Security Council will now hear a briefing by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. I give him the floor.

Mr. Annabi: As you have just indicated, Mr. President, Council members have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), dated 15 December, which provides a comprehensive account of developments in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, over the past few months.

The most important development during these past three months has been the holding of municipal elections, in which almost 80 per cent of the eligible electorate participated. As Council members are aware, Kosovo Serbs did not, however, participate in the elections, and the voter turnout for Romas and Turks was low to negligible. Other minority participation was more encouraging, especially among the Kosovo Bosniac and Gorani communities.

The election results have been certified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bernard Kouchner, in 27 out of Kosovo's 30 municipalities. Of those 27 municipalities, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) won in 21 municipalities, and the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) won in six other municipalities. The exceptions, where certification has not been possible, are the three Kosovo Serb majority municipalities of Leposavic, Zubin Potok and Zvecan. In these areas, the Special Representative has appointed municipal assemblies. Kosovo Serb representatives have been drawn from various political parties, but they also include a number of independent personalities. Major progress has now been made in establishing functioning municipal assemblies.

The report of the Secretary-General notes that changes in the Government in Belgrade have influenced Kosovo's political life. While Kosovo Albanian leaders have welcomed the changes as a positive contribution, they have perceived President Kostunica's victory as a threat to their well-known aspirations for the province. That perception could, unfortunately, further radicalize some Kosovo Albanian nationalist elements and may place Kosovo's minorities under increased threat, which UNMIK, in cooperation with the Kosovo Force (KFOR), has taken steps to address.

UNMIK places emphasis on combating politically motivated violence, and a joint UNMIK-KFOR Political Violence Task Force has been established. The pre-election period saw a significant drop in the level of politically motivated violence. However, in the post-election period, the number of attacks has, regrettably, returned to a level comparable to that of midsummer of this year.

One incident of particular concern to UNMIK was the bombing of the house of the senior representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo, Ambassador Vukicevic, of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Committee for Cooperation with UNMIK, which resulted in the death of a Serb guard and the injury of three other persons. The following day, a senior politician of the LDK was also murdered.

The overriding human rights concern in Kosovo continues to be the provision of adequate security for Kosovo's minorities. While for some communities, such as the Kosovo Roma, the number of significant incidents has dropped, for others the situation remains precarious or has in fact deteriorated. For example, four Ashkalija returnees were murdered in the Mitrovica region in early November. UNMIK has continued to develop measures to improve security in minority communities, with joint patrols of UNMIK and the Kosovo Force and the establishment of a telephone hotline.

The Secretary-General has emphasized that extremists must not be allowed to undermine the achievements obtained so far in providing the basis for substantial autonomy and self-government in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999). Continued implementation of substantial autonomy depends upon the existence of security and respect for human rights and democratic development. None of these conditions can be met unless Kosovo's leaders and the general population commit themselves to ensuring that they are upheld.

I would like to turn now to the situation in the Presevo Valley. In mid-November, there was an escalation of armed confrontation between Serbian security forces and the self-styled Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac in the ground safety zone adjacent to Kosovo. The clashes triggered an influx of almost 5,000 displaced persons from the area into Kosovo. While the number of displaced can be

considered as relatively small, the potential implications for peace and security in the region are quite serious.

In response, KFOR and UNMIK continue to enhance operations within Kosovo to further deter and disrupt radical ethnic Albanian groups from conducting armed activities in the Presevo Valley. These operations combine both political and military efforts to reduce tensions within the ground safety zone. Elements of the operation include, among other measures, sustained political pressure on Kosovo Albanian politicians who might exert some moderating influence on hard-line Albanian armed groups; intensified reconnaissance operations along the eastern boundary of Kosovo; and extensive operations within Kosovo to deter any attempt to move arms or military equipment to the Presevo Valley.

UNMIK continues to make impressive gains in normalizing life in Kosovo. Health care institutions continue to be refurbished. Almost 70,000 children have been immunized against polio. More than 1,000 schools have been rehabilitated since last September. Work also continues to restore both the electricity and the water-supply systems in Kosovo. In the case of the water systems, 80 per cent of Kosovo's urban population now have chlorinated water. In comparison, only 30 per cent had access to chlorinated water in mid-1999, when UNMIK was established.

On the humanitarian front, it is estimated that some 20,000 families could be at risk of suffering severe exposure this winter if coal and firewood are not provided. Work is under way to provide winter stoves, blankets and other non-food items, such as coal and firewood. Places are also being made available in community shelters.

The UNMIK Mine Action Coordination Centre has estimated that the task of clearing Kosovo of mines and other ordinance should be completed by December 2001 and it has therefore prepared an exit strategy to transfer responsibilities to the appropriate departments of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure.

Before concluding, I would like to mention the incident which occurred last weekend in Leposavic in northern Kosovo. This was on the evening of 16 December, when two Kosovo Serbs died, two more were seriously injured and the Leposavic municipal police station was burned to the ground. The violence stemmed from an incident in which a Kosovo Serb was

arrested for drunken driving and the attempted murder of a Kosovo Serb officer of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS). A crowd subsequently formed at the Leposavic police station to demand the release of the arrested man. In the ensuing events, seven Belgian KFOR soldiers were taken hostage and later released. The crowd attempted to break into the police compound. Petrol bombs were thrown at the police station and three KFOR vehicles and one KPS police car were destroyed. Belgian KFOR members fired tear gas and warning shots in response.

As I just mentioned, two Kosovo Serbs died during this incident, one from a gunshot wound and the other, reportedly, from a heart attack. UNMIK police has launched an investigation into this incident and into the deaths. Since then, the situation in the region has remained calm, and this is confirmed by the latest situation reports we have received.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that, while many of the foundations for the future development of Kosovo have been laid, much remains to be done. The upsurge in politically motivated violence, as well as the incidents in the Presevo Valley and in Leposavic, underscore, if there is any need to do so, the fragility of the situation and the need for continued international support for UNMIK and its work. This support will be critical as the Mission continues to implement the results of the municipal elections held last October and as it increases the involvement of the local population in the local interim administrative bodies.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I call on the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Svilanovic (Yugoslavia): In addressing the Security Council for the first time, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency and to express my conviction that, under your able stewardship, it will continue to conduct its affairs fruitfully and constructively. I would also like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi for his briefing.

In taking up the issues at hand, let me recall that, in the past several weeks, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has addressed the Security Council on a number of occasions, drawing its attention to the serious situation in southern Serbia, specifically the ground safety zone, which includes parts of the

territories of the Serbian municipalities of Bujanovac, Medveda and Presevo. The highest representatives and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expect the international community to respond to the serious events in the zone, in accordance with the obligations to which it committed itself by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Kumanovo Military-Technical Agreement, in order to protect and secure the administrative boundary of Kosovo and Metohija and to prevent armed Albanian terrorists from entering the zone, which is the main cause of the present tensions.

Since 10 June 1999, Albanian terrorists have committed more than 400 armed attacks on Yugoslav police personnel and residents of the zone, killing 19 people, 11 of them police officers and 8 civilians, and wounding 39 police officers and 3 civilians.

More than 1,000 terrorists from Kosovo and Metohija, often equipped with heavy weapons, have entered the zone and are still there. They present a potent threat to the lightly armed Yugoslav policemen, the only ones allowed by the military-technical agreement to police the zone. The safety and security of its population are under attack, and the major roads in southern Serbia are constantly threatened, while tens of thousands of Serbs living in Kosovo and Metohija close to the zone are cut off from the rest of Serbia.

The actions of Albanian terrorists further instigate the ethnic cleansing of the remaining Serbian and other non-Albanian population and constitute an enormous impediment to the return of internally displaced Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija. They also impede the efforts of the international community and the new democratic Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to normalize the situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

The new Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia bases its policy on constructive cooperation and dialogue with the international community. Consequently, it addresses the question of Kosovo and Metohija with immense responsibility and a firm commitment to full respect for Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement. Faced with the escalation of violence in the zone and the fact that violence has become a daily occurrence in Kosovo and Metohija, the Yugoslav Government continues to be committed to dialogue and a quest for a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the

problem. Unfortunately, it is precisely this commitment of ours to peace, dialogue and tolerance that has been a cause of concern and anxiety to those who resort to force and violence in order to further their extremist goals. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia therefore expects the Security Council to take appropriate measures this time around to address the situation in a proper way.

The timing of these incidents is of particular concern. On the one hand, the fundamental democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have created the conditions for dialogue with the Albanian side and paved the way for all-round cooperation with UNMIK and KFOR, which we hope will lead to a generally acceptable political solution. On the other hand, the recent local elections in Kosovo and Metohija brought to the fore moderate forces among the Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija. These developments made it incumbent on all of us to make sure that that positive momentum is not wasted. After all, no solution can be achieved without dialogue and negotiation, and the loss of the momentum may bring about a deterioration of the situation and lead to unforeseeable consequences. Such a course of events may not only aggravate the situation in Kosovo and Metohija; it may also jeopardize the democratic processes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and affect the stability of the region as a whole. The latest incidents in Leposavic are also a cause of added concern, and we hope and believe that they will not be repeated in the future.

It is of utmost importance now that Albanian terrorists pull out immediately from the ground safety zone and that the regime established by the military-technical agreement be fully respected. On behalf of my Government, I call on the Security Council to pledge its authority to bring about that end. KFOR and UNMIK should take effective measures to stop further incursions by Albanian terrorists from Kosovo and Metohija that could result in the spread of armed incidents. In these efforts, UNMIK and KFOR will enjoy full support and cooperation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Let me point out that my Government stands ready to take all necessary measures, under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in accordance with the relevant international documents, to protect its citizens and defend the

sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. This is our duty, as well as our obligation.

Before I conclude, let me point out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the statements of the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to the effect that KFOR and NATO will act vigorously to stop the violence of armed Albanian terrorists and that they will expand cooperation with the Yugoslav Army and police within the framework of the joint commission entrusted with the task of implementing the military-technical agreement. In that context, the Government of my country reiterates its readiness to sign at an early date an agreement on the status of UNMIK and KFOR, so that mutual cooperation can be enhanced.

The Government of my country is also ready to consider, in cooperation with UNMIK and KFOR, possible changes in the regime in the zone, as well as its scope, convinced that it would facilitate the normalization of the situation in the area. My Government is prepared to take all necessary measures to integrate the local Albanian population and help them participate actively and be represented in local and central authorities, as well as in other walks of life, in particular police work, health care and education.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Cunningham (United States of America): I would like to thank Mr. Annabi for his informative briefing. I would also like to welcome Foreign Minister Svilanovic to the Security Council and thank him for his remarks as well. He raised a number of interesting points.

I would like to assure the Foreign Minister that the Council has very much heard the concerns of his Government about violence in the ground safety zone and in certain municipalities in southern Serbia. We, too, are extremely concerned and have condemned these acts of violence. Mr. Annabi has described some of the steps taken by the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR), including immediate steps to cut off the material and political support for the armed ethnic Albanian extremist groups and to enhance KFOR's surveillance and monitoring of the border along the ground safety zone. KFOR has interdicted weapons and supplies and detained more than 30 individuals

suspected of being involved in illegal activities. In addition, Mr. Kouchner has signed new regulations that increase the authority of KFOR and UNMIK to expel or detain anyone suspected of aiding armed insurgents in the border area.

My Government has joined KFOR and UNMIK officials in urging the Kosovar Albanian leadership to use its influence with these groups to encourage them to cease all violent activity. In November Secretary of State Albright sent a letter to the leading Kosovar Albanian figures warning in the strongest terms against further violence in Presevo region. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Robertson also raised the issue with Kosovo's leadership when he recently visited the area.

We welcome the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Government's expressed commitment to respect its obligations under the military-technical agreement and in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). There is no better sign of this commitment than the enhanced cooperation between UNMIK, KFOR and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities through the Joint Implementation Commission. In that connection, I note that at a 17 December meeting of the Joint Implementation Commission the Commander of KFOR briefed Federal Republic of Yugoslavia officials on what KFOR has done and is doing regarding the Presevo Valley. He also stressed that the use of force is not the solution. Clearly, the only lasting solution to the problem is a political one. In that respect, we urge all sides to continue to exercise restraint, and we welcome the beginning of a dialogue with local community leaders and the establishment of a joint commission under Deputy Prime Minister Covic to investigate the problem.

We recognize that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Government has shown considerable restraint and responsibility in dealing with this problem, especially during a hard-fought political campaign in the run-up to elections on 23 December. Not everyone has acted so responsibly, and we would caution against exaggerated charges and calls for military action that have emanated from some on both sides of the Kosovo border.

In Kosovo itself, as the Secretary-General's report makes clear, elections have opened the door to continued progress on the political front. The municipal assemblies have been constituted. Minority

representatives have been appointed. The Joint Interim Administrative Structure is operational. In the coming months, UNMIK should continue to press ahead with regulations that will further define the responsibilities of Kosovo's autonomous institutions. The United States supports Kosovo-wide elections in the spring of 2001, with the participation of all groups in Kosovo. Democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have helped encourage this participation and provide hope that a multi-ethnic, democratic Kosovo governed by the rule of law will prevail.

Continued progress on the issue of the Kosovo detainees will help promote reconciliation. We urge the Government in Belgrade to press ahead with the passage of an asylum law for the release of Kosovar political prisoners, and we call for a full accounting of the missing.

In closing, we would like to welcome the Secretary-General's appointment of former Danish Defence Minister Haekkerup as his new Special Representative in Kosovo. We would also like to wish Bernard Kouchner all the best, thank him for his tremendous efforts and applaud his significant success in implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): Mr. President, we welcome amongst us the presence of Mr. Svilanovic, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We believe his presence in the Council contributes to the involvement of the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Government in support of the Council's efforts to achieve an early resolution of outstanding problems in Kosovo.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Minister Svilanovic for his initiative in setting up a truth commission on the war crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We also appreciate the briefing and update given by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi.

A number of important issues have been discussed in the report of the Secretary-General in document S/2000/1196. In today's meeting, I will focus on the following four points. First, the security situation. It is encouraging that the situation in Mitrovica, a hotbed of inter-ethnic tension for a long period, has considerably improved. There was also a noticeable drop in violence in Kosovo in the pre-election period, but the improvement has not been

sustained. We are concerned about the incidents in the Presevo Valley in mid-November which triggered an influx of almost 5,000 people. We are, however, encouraged by the commitment of the authorities in Belgrade to work towards the return of the displaced persons and by their commitment to adopt measures for reducing discrimination against ethnic Albanians through their integration in the local police and political structures.

Secondly, detained and missing persons. The Secretary-General's report says that there are still 800 detained outside Kosovo and about 3,500 are still missing. This is a very high number. Efforts aimed at solving the cases of missing persons, irrespective of their ethnic origin, should be intensified. We welcome the establishment, in October, of the Bureau for Detainees and Missing Persons. The fate of detainees is likely to improve with the passing of legislation in the Yugoslav Parliament, which we hope will pave the way for their release. We continue, however, to remain concerned that an unacceptably high number of persons are still missing from Kosovo. We would urge that initiatives be redoubled to determine the whereabouts of these unaccounted individuals.

Thirdly, the local government. Following the successful holding of municipal elections in October, it is now necessary to focus on the building of institutions for governance and administrative capacity at the municipal level. This should be accompanied by gradual transfer of authority to the municipalities. Training provided by the Institute for Civil Administration, which opened in Kosovo last September, will be helpful in this regard. All political parties and sectors of society should be prepared to extend assistance in discharging the responsibilities of the elected officials. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) also has the special responsibility in ensuring that the local population is progressively involved in the bodies of interim administration.

Finally, civil society. We support the continued efforts of UNMIK to create a favourable environment for non-governmental organizations, other civil society structures, and local women's organizations in Kosovo. The recent opening of the ninth non-governmental resource centre by the institution-building pillar of UNMIK is a further step forward. The full involvement of civil society is indispensable in lending effective support to the efforts of the local administration.

Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) generated a difficult and sometimes impossible set of tasks for the special representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo. We have seen over the years the determination and dexterity of Mr. Kouchner in handling those issues. The Security Council mission to Kosovo in April, which I had the honour to lead, saw at first hand the activities and initiatives of Mr. Kouchner with regard to the future in Kosovo.

His mission has been extremely challenging and came at the most difficult moment. With his leadership and statesman-like vision, he has done a laudable job in Kosovo. We congratulate him for his success and we wish him the best in his future endeavours.

Mr. Levitte (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, also associated countries, align themselves with this statement.

I should like first of all to warmly welcome the presence among of us of Mr. Svilanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who is representing his country today at the Security Council table.

In the case of Kosovo, I should remind the meeting that, for the European Union, the full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) must be the be all and end all of international community action. At our meeting on 16 November, in the presence of the Secretary-General's special representative, I had occasion to mention the impressive achievements of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in this area over the last year and a half. The holding of non-violent and remarkably well organized municipal elections in Kosovo on 28 October, with the help of the Kosovo Force and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, was a major feather in the cap for UNMIK.

Mr. Kouchner should be congratulated on his exceptional efforts in this regard. We would like to give him the most sincere congratulations of our 15 countries on the completion of his term of office. I should like to assure his successor, Mr. Hans

Hackkerup, here and now, of the European Union's full support.

Action to combat violence should remain a priority for the Secretary-General's new representative. The fact is that men and women in Kosovo continue to be killed because of their ethnic background or the moderate opinions voiced by them in political debates. Furthermore, in the Presevo Valley, extremist groups of Albanian origin have killed police officers of Serbian origin. They seek to maintain a state of instability by harassing the forces of law and order. The reaction of the Kosovo Force to this provocation has been to increase the number of control points and step up its patrols at the borders of the ground safety zone. These measures have led to the seizure of weapons and the arrest of dozens of suspects. The Kosovo Force is continuing to reinforce its presence in this sector and is also active in fighting crime country-wide, in conditions which are, at all times, difficult and sometimes at the cost of the lives of some of its members.

President Kostunica has called on the people to respect the laws and not to fall into the trap of extremists who seek to increase tension. The international community must throw all its weight into ensuring that this message is heard by the people. It must also make it absolutely clear to the agitators that they will be unable to rely on its tolerance and understanding.

The European Union therefore welcomes the presidential statement on which the Security Council has today agreed. This statement is a clear message of the international commitment to the fight against violence and the search for dialogue. Mr. Svilanovic, when he returns to Europe — in fact to Paris, where President Kostunica will visit, giving him an opportunity to receive the signs of friendship from France — will be able to confirm this fact to the highest Yugoslav authorities.

On 1 November, Mr. Svilanovic set out before the United Nations the principles which would be governing the action of the new Yugoslav authorities. He proclaimed his country's pledge to comply with the Charter, emphasizing in particular that the consolidation of democracy and reconciliation between the peoples of the region would be among the top priorities of President Kostunica and his Government.

He also expressed the hope of a rapprochement between South-East Europe and the European Union.

Major steps have been accomplished to date. The new Yugoslav authorities have worked actively on the realization of this programme. Even though extremist nationalism continues to rear its head here and there, democracy has now become established in the region. Continuing intolerance, violence and ethnic hatreds are becoming increasingly a memento of the past.

The establishment at the regional level of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on 15 December was one of the most long-awaited measures. After years of conflict and suspicion, this decision, which the European Union welcomes, will help to set the seal on reconciliation in the Balkans. Coming as it does less than a month after the Zagreb summit, which proclaimed the European orientation of all the countries in the region, it represents a very positive and encouraging development.

Mr. Minister, today, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, you have signed the Rome Statute, which creates the International Criminal Court, thereby demonstrating the standing commitment of the new Yugoslav authorities to respect international humanitarian law and the fight against impunity.

Mr. Minister, the European Union wishes to assure the Yugoslav authorities, through you, of its support for their action in favour of stabilization, democratization and reconciliation in South-East Europe.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): We are very grateful for the useful briefing which the Assistant Secretary-General has given us this morning, and I would like to warmly welcome the presence here today of His Excellency Goran Svilanovic, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We have taken careful note of his remarks, and I agree that it is the task of all of us, in particular, to try to sustain a positive momentum in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999).

The substance of the United Kingdom position is well covered in the statement which Ambassador Levitte made in his capacity in the presidency of the European Union. I would like to echo the welcome expressed there and in earlier statements for the

appointment of Mr. Haekkerup as Special Representative and join others in thanking Mr. Bernard Kouchner extremely warmly for the tremendous job that he has done as Special Representative.

One or two additional points. The United Kingdom strongly condemns the attack on the joint United States/Russian Kosovo Force (KFOR) near the Kosovo-Serbian boundary a few days ago. KFOR will not be deterred from carrying out its mission by extremist attacks. Violence directed against representatives of the international community cannot be in the interests of the residents of the Presevo Valley region who want to live in peace. This violence must stop immediately.

We also condemn the violence in Leposavic on 16 December, and we call on the Serb residents of Kosovo to avoid being manipulated by extremists who do not have the real interests of the Serb community at heart. That incident in particular demonstrates that there is a long way to go with the challenge of normalizing the situation in Kosovo. All sides have to respect the law and exercise restraint in the run-up to the Serbian parliamentary elections on 23 December. The holding of those elections in Kosovo is without prejudice to the future status of Kosovo and must not be used as an excuse for agitation.

The elections to Kosovo-wide provisional democratic self-governing institutions, as envisaged in resolution 1244 (1999), should be held when the right conditions are in place. The process of creating those conditions has to begin now, and we call on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to begin those preparations, including the registration of Serbs and other minorities.

Finally, I should like to welcome contact between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK on the issue of Kosovar Albanians detained in Serbia. We hope a decision on their release can be taken as soon as possible. This will be a valuable confidence-building measure. I urge Foreign Minister Svilanovic to do all he can to move forward this important step towards normalization.

The United Kingdom is pleased to have sponsored the presidential statement which we are about to adopt.

Mr. Chen Xu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset we would like to thank the Secretary-General for

his report as well the briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi. We welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Goran Svilanovic, and welcome his statement.

After local elections in Kosovo, the situation remains grave. In particular, politically motivated acts of violence increased. We are deeply concerned by this. It is our view that if extremist elements and secessionist forces are not curbed the consequences will be very serious. We hope that UNMIK and KFOR will take very forceful measures, and we urge people in all walks of life in Kosovo, especially their leaders, to renounce the use of force and translate it into concrete action.

Recently, in southern Serbia, conflicts occurred in the ground safety zone bordering Kosovo, and they are escalating. This not only raises very serious humanitarian issues, but it will also present new threats to ethnic relations in Kosovo, thus affecting peace and stability in that region. This is something we are very worried about. We strongly condemn the provocative acts of extremism. We have taken note that KFOR has adopted some measures and we hope that it will take further measures to restrict the activities of the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac (UCPMB) to ensure that the safety zone is not used as a haven for attacks against Serbia.

The appropriate resolution of the question of Kosovo hinges on the understanding, support and cooperation given to Kosovo. We welcome the efforts of UNMIK and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to engage in constructive dialogue on matters of common concern. Thus, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) will be fully implemented.

Mr. Cappagli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the Secretary-General's report, as well as Mr. Annabi's briefing. We also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Goran Svilanovic.

Between 16 November last, when we had Mr. Bernard Kouchner with us, and now there have been some developments that deserve to be highlighted. The opportunity recently offered to relatives of Kosovar Albanians detained at Belgrade's main prison to be able to visit them is a decision we appreciate. We hope these visits will be continued and that they can be extended to other detention centres in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The decision of the Yugoslav

authorities to begin to transfer the detainees in Posarevec and Nis to upgraded detention centres is also worth noting. While we appreciate these measures, we believe that, for the sake of peaceful coexistence in Kosovo, it is important that the Belgrade Government try to provide a lasting solution to the problem by freeing the Kosovar Albanians detained in Serbia. This gesture would also allow the Belgrade Government to win the trust of the people of the province.

The decision to expand representation on the Kosovo Transitional Council, with the participation of political parties that won a minimum number of votes in the elections last October, as well as the first meeting held by the directors of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure, also deserve to be highlighted because they show that, despite the difficulties, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continues to carry out its mandate in a firm and sustainable manner.

While there have been these positive developments, we must also mention the deep concern caused by the escalation of violence in Kosovo following the elections. UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) must spare no efforts to detain and bring to justice all who attack the peace process in Kosovo. We should also bear in mind that an insecure climate is not the most propitious environment for stimulating private investment.

The situation in the Presevo Valley constitutes a grave threat to Kosovo and can become a regional destabilizing factor. All who are nourishing separatist ideas and who think they can achieve such goals through a false confrontation between the Belgrade Government and UNMIK and KFOR should be very clear about the fact that the international community, which celebrated the installation of a new Government in Belgrade, continues to give its full support to UNMIK and KFOR and that it will not tolerate the resurgence of terrorist activities.

Finally, we express our deepest gratitude to Mr. Bernard Kouchner for the great work he has done with so much energy and enthusiasm in particularly difficult circumstances. We wish his successor, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, success in his new post, which he will assume in January 2001.

Mr. Scheffers (Netherlands): Like previous speakers, I would also like to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing and the Secretary-General for his report. Let

me also state that my delegation has listened with great interest to the statement of the Yugoslav Foreign Minister. I fully associate myself with the statement just made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. However, since this will probably be the very last opportunity for my delegation to express its views on Kosovo as a non-permanent member of this Council, I would like to make some additional remarks. The Netherlands also wishes to welcome the appointment of Mr. Hans Haekkerup as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the head of the United Nations Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The Netherlands notes with appreciation the arrangements for the Serb parliamentary elections to be held on 23 December without the involvement of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in its organization, but with the Kosovo Force (KFOR) providing additional measures to ensure safety and security. It is the feeling of my delegation that the concerns of all parties are being adequately met in this way.

Like Mr. Annabi and other Security Council delegations, the Netherlands remains seriously concerned about the developments in the Presevo Valley. The perpetrators of the ongoing violence are playing with fire. This cannot be condoned and is strongly condemned by the Netherlands and also rightly so in the presidential statement we are about to adopt.

We fully support the measures taken by KFOR in this respect. At the same time, it is essential that the Kosovar Albanian leadership should call on the rank and file to exercise restraint and for the international community to continue to pressure them towards that end.

While tensions in the area prevail, it is of vital importance that all channels of communication be kept open and used to best effect. KFOR is keeping in constant touch with the Yugoslav Army and police and it is equally important for KFOR and UNMIK to be in touch with the Belgrade leadership. Good communications may prevent small incidents from escalating into events that are difficult to control.

Finally, the fate of the Kosovar Albanian political prisoners incarcerated in Serbia remains a matter of grave concern to the Netherlands, and it should remain high on the international agenda. The new Government

in Belgrade has announced new amnesty legislation, but in the meantime these prisoners are still being held hostage to a political resolution of the Kosovo question. Continuing pressure should be brought to bear on the Yugoslav authorities to release all political detainees.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): My delegation thanks Assistant Secretary-General Hedi Annabi for his briefing and for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2000/1196). We are also pleased to welcome Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and have taken careful note of his remarks.

My delegation notes that the key achievement of UNMIK during the reporting period was the holding of municipal elections on 28 October throughout Kosovo. With the municipal assemblies fully functioning since 11 November, we wish to acknowledge the efforts of UNMIK to ensure that all of Kosovo's communities are represented in these municipal structures. The appointment of minority representatives to elected assemblies is a welcome development, as are the efforts aimed at integrating Kosovo Serb appointees into these structures. This is a critical task for UNMIK, as it lays the foundations for a multi-ethnic society on which the future of Kosovo must be built. We join in urging local leaders across the political spectrum in Kosovo to support and participate in the daily business of government at the municipal level.

We encourage UNMIK to continue its work in reconfiguring the existing central bodies as part of its efforts to build local capacity for self-governance and note the work being undertaken to elaborate an interim framework that would define substantial autonomy. We believe, like UNMIK, that the process of defining substantial autonomy and of developing institutions of self-government, with the population of Kosovo sharing more and more responsibility in the administration of the province must, be actively pursued.

At this point I wish to focus on a few of the areas covered in the report of the Secretary-General, namely, the security situation, minority communities, detained and missing persons and the humanitarian situation.

My delegation is concerned that the post-election period has seen an increase in politically motivated

attacks to a level comparable to that of mid-summer 2000. That is unacceptable. We therefore place emphasis on the work of the Political Violence Task Force and support its efforts in combating politically motivated violence. We agree with the assertion in the Secretary-General's report that words alone do not reverse this counter-productive behaviour, but only concrete actions by all communities in Kosovo, particularly their leaders, through which they must show that they do not accept such violent acts.

Of particular concern is the recent escalation of armed confrontation between the Serbian security forces and the so-called Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac in the ground safety zone, and the resulting influx of almost 5,000 displaced persons into Kosovo. We see the need for the presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the area to help ease conditions and build confidence among the local population.

The conflict situation in the Presevo Valley must not be allowed to worsen further, as it could serve to destabilize the region, thereby posing a serious threat to the local population and to community relations. In this context, my delegation joins in condemning the killings that have taken place. We express our condolences to the bereaved. The presidential statement to be adopted fully reflects the views of my delegation.

We are also encouraged by the stated commitment of the Yugoslav authorities to work towards a peaceful settlement. At the same time, it is imperative that there should be increased surveillance of the border by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to put an end to extremist activities and to stop any traffic in illegal weapons. In that regard, we expect KFOR to report fully on any relevant violations to the committee established under resolution 1160 (1998).

As my delegation has emphasized in previous briefings, the future of Kosovo must encompass the peaceful coexistence of various ethnic groups, including minority communities. The fact is that adequate security still remains the key issue for Kosovo's minority communities. It is of concern to us that minority groups continue to be the target of threats, intimidation and violence. We urge UNMIK to continue to develop measures to improve the conditions in various minority communities across Kosovo through the implementation of special security

measures, including joint patrols by UNMIK police and KFOR. We have noted the establishment of a telephone hotline.

Another area of concern to us is that of violations of human rights. It is disturbing that in October 2000 alone some 25 cases of trafficking in women were discovered. It is clear that these are not isolated cases, but part of a larger problem that has to be dealt with in collaboration with all the countries in South-Eastern Europe.

We welcome the establishment on 21 November of the ombudsperson institution as one mechanism for ensuring respect for human rights. We note that there have been workshops and other activities, such as a public awareness campaign, carried out by UNMIK with the support of the Council of Europe.

The issue of detained and missing persons remains a high priority for my delegation. The Secretary-General's report indicates that over 3,470 cases of missing persons from Kosovo remain unresolved. The establishment of the Bureau for Detainees and Missing Persons is a step in the right direction. We also continue to attach importance to the work of the Special Envoy on Persons Deprived of Liberty, and support his work. This is another area in which cooperation between UNMIK and Yugoslav authorities will be critical to the reconciliation process.

In closing, I wish to offer by delegation's commendation to Mr. Bernard Kouchner. The words in paragraph 114 of the Secretary-General's report (S/2000/1196) aptly describe my delegation's views:

"His imagination and inspiring leadership were instrumental in steering this most challenging and unique mission during its most difficult period."

We wish Mr. Kouchner well in his future endeavours. We also welcome his successor, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, and assure him and the men and women of UNMIK of Jamaica's continued support as they carry out the challenging task of implementing the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999).

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation appreciates the convening of this meeting, which affords us another opportunity to review developments in Kosovo as well as the important work being carried out by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force

(KFOR) in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999).

We thank Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi for his useful briefing, and the Secretary-General for his latest report on the work of UNMIK and on the challenges that remain. We acknowledge the presence of the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and take note of the statement he has just made to the Council.

My delegation welcomes the appointment of Mr. Hans Haekkerup as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK. We extend our best wishes to Mr. Haekkerup on his appointment and new assignment. Given his leadership skills and experience, we have every confidence that he will lead UNMIK effectively and efficiently, building upon the successive achievements that the Mission has made thus far in implementing its mandate. As a contributor to the UNMIK police force and to some modest reconstruction efforts in Kosovo, Malaysia pledges its full support and cooperation to the new Special Representative, as we did with respect to his predecessor, Mr. Bernard Kouchner.

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express its profound appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Kouchner. With his dynamic leadership and energetic efforts, Mr. Kouchner has successfully led UNMIK in dealing with the disastrous consequences of the recent war and the ethnic repression and cleansing that preceded it. He has turned those enormous challenges into new possibilities, thereby providing new hopes and aspirations for the people of Kosovo and building concrete foundations for their freedom and self-government within the framework of resolution 1244 (1999).

My delegation is gratified that in the first year and a half of its deployment, UNMIK has already made significant progress in the core areas of its mandate — providing humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, the rebuilding and consolidation of sectoral facilities, the establishment of the provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self-government and laying the foundation of long-term development and reconstruction for Kosovo.

The municipal elections of 20 October were a remarkable success and the culmination of continuous and strenuous efforts by UNMIK, in cooperation with

KFOR and with the strong and sustained support of the international community. We take note of the steps that have been taken to implement the outcome of the elections and to establish functioning municipal assemblies. We urge all the leaders and people of Kosovo to respect the outcome of the elections and to cooperate with UNMIK in consolidating this achievement. We are therefore concerned over the refusal by Kosovo's Serbs to participate in the elected assemblies in the municipalities of Mitrovica and Strepce, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report.

Significantly, the strenuous efforts made by UNMIK to engage the local population in the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-governance in Kosovo have produced tangible results. The Joint Interim Administrative Structure is being further consolidated. The Mission is on the right path towards giving Kosovars greater responsibility for self-determination and self-governance, as well as the opportunity to have trust and confidence in the democratic process. We certainly look forward to UNMIK organizing Kosovo-wide general elections and note the careful planning and preparation under way for them to be held in the near future.

The precarious security situation in Kosovo remains a matter of serious concern to the international community and a major challenge to both UNMIK and the Kosovo Force. The continuation of violence, such as the incident that took place in the town of Leposavic last Sunday, is clearly unacceptable and should be condemned. Extremism, regardless of its source, should be rejected.

We fully support the continued efforts of the two missions to tackle the security problems in Kosovo effectively, as well as the efforts to contribute to normalizing the situation in the ground safety zone. Indeed, the tense situation in the ground safety zone is worrisome. The Council pronounced itself on this matter last Wednesday. At this critical juncture it is imperative that all concerned exercise maximum restraint, avoid any form of provocation and work constructively towards finding a peaceful solution.

In Kosovo the resolution of inter-community tensions is to a large extent linked to the overall issue of justice and to the issues relating to missing persons and the continued detention of Kosovars in Serbian jails. We therefore reaffirm our full support for the

ongoing work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in Kosovo and for the efforts by UNMIK and Ambassador Henrik Amnéus to find an early solution to the twin problems of detainees and missing persons. In this regard we underline the importance of cooperation and concrete actions by all concerned. We look forward to the full cooperation of the new Government in Yugoslavia in resolving this issue once and for all.

Finally, the international community should view peace in Kosovo as a long-term process. The international community has come a long way in assisting the people of Kosovo to establish viable foundations for peace, democracy and self-government. The success of this enormous achievement and of the enormous investment by the international community will depend on continued strenuous efforts and vigilance on the part of the international community and on the cooperation of all the leaders and people of Kosovo. Their commitment is crucial to ensuring that the progress achieved thus far will not be reversed.

Mr. Cherif (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I would like first of all to welcome the presence here of His Excellency Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We listened with interest to his statement, and we believe it important to continue to make every effort to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on Kosovo. I would also like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Hedi Annabi for his useful and informative briefing on the functioning of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

We think that with the success achieved by UNMIK during the 28 October elections — in particular the respect for electoral rules and procedures, the participation of such a great part of the population and the absence of violence during the vote — a significant hurdle has been overcome. This progress should be buttressed with a view to elaborating, with the agreement of all the parties to the conflict, a vision of the substantially autonomous regime foreseen in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). We believe that the new situation prevailing throughout the Balkans makes it possible to envisage the holding of constructive political dialogue on the future of Kosovo. The new disposition of the province should taken into consideration the rights of all the inhabitants to security, to have their differences

respected and to participate in public life. Further, this disposition should abolish hatred and attitudes based on ethnic considerations and should promote the peaceful coexistence of all the communities. In this context we think that the inhabitants of Kosovo should discuss the elaboration of a pact for Kosovo society.

I would like to express my delegation's concern about the fresh outbreak of acts of violence in Kosovo. These are the sort of acts that undermine the international community's efforts and their political nature seems designed to destabilize the region. These acts are unacceptable. In this regard we welcome the UNMIK initiative to create a group charged with examining the political violence, and we also welcome the efforts aimed at strengthening UNMIK's work in the security field, in particular its work to protect high-risk individuals.

Furthermore, we express our great concern regarding the heightened level of armed clashes in the Presevo Valley. This violence has already led to a flood of displaced persons in the interior of Kosovo and has contributed to making the situation more complex. We encourage the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK to persist in their efforts to restrict the activities of extremists. In this regard we subscribe to the idea that the presence of international organizations in and around the security zone can improve the situation and strengthen the confidence of the population. In addition, the Belgrade authorities' expressed willingness to find a solution to the problem of persons of Albanian extraction in southern Serbia and to promote the return of displaced persons, in particular by strengthening confidence measures, is encouraging.

The issue of detainees and people who have disappeared is particularly sensitive. It remains one of the principal sources inter-ethnic tension in Kosovo. We note with satisfaction that, following the designation of a Special Envoy on Persons Deprived of Liberty, an office charged with dealing with this issue has been created. In this regard we encourage all the parties to take appropriate steps to ensure the well-being and security of the detainees and to find a definitive solution to this issue.

The establishment of a reliable and impartial judicial system is essential for the re-establishment of peace in Kosovo. The impartial and non-discriminatory application of the laws will strengthen the confidence of the inhabitants of Kosovo in the rule of law —

which alone can ensure the peaceful coexistence of all the ethnic communities. My delegation welcomes the progress achieved in this field and urges UNMIK to continue its efforts, in particular to implement the recommendations of the report on the criminal justice system in Kosovo.

The issue of refugees and displaced persons is crucial to the search for a lasting solution in Kosovo. It is important therefore to ensure that satisfactory conditions exist for the return of former inhabitants. In particular the security of minority communities should be strengthened. This issue is all the more vital because of the spontaneous nature of many returns. In this context we salute the laudable efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In conclusion, I would like to pay vigorous tribute to Mr. Bernard Kouchner, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo, and to thank him for his tireless efforts and for his commitment to the work of the international community. I also congratulate his successor, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, and wish him complete success in his new role.

Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi (Namibia): We too are happy to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Honourable Mr. Goran Svilanovic, to this meeting and to thank him warmly for his clear and informative statement. I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Annabi and to thank him for his update on the latest developments.

My delegation welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to achieve peace, reconciliation and stability in the Balkan region. We believe that a peaceful democratic atmosphere will facilitate the full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and also underscore the broad parameters in which regional problems can be addressed through peaceful political dialogue. We also recognize that a political dialogue cannot flourish amidst the threat by military elements of the Kosovo Liberation Army and of the so-called Liberation Army of Presevo. My delegation therefore concurs with the Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia that resolution 1244 (1999) should be implemented fully and that the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) take effective measures to put an end to the undesirable activities of the KLA and their like.

In our view, the Security Council should continue to show the same zeal and determination at a time when the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia is being challenged.

With respect to the municipal elections, we concur with the Secretary-General that the elections went well despite a few hiccups — among other things, voter processing at few polling centres and a lack of participation of some minorities. We therefore note with appreciation that during the period following the elections, Kosovo has experienced a significant drop in the level of politically motivated violence. However, as I mentioned earlier, the escalation of armed confrontation between the Serbian security forces and the so-called Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac in the ground safety zone not only poses a threat to those 5,000 displaced civilians in the Presevo Valley, but also stands to undermine the foundations of peace, reconciliation and stability in the region. Nonetheless, we are pleased to learn that 2,000 of the 5,000 persons who were internally displaced as a result of the latest fighting have returned to their homes in the area.

In this context, my delegation commends the joint security operations and other security-related activities conducted by UNMIK police and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) geared towards protecting civilians, including minority communities in Kosovo.

The precarious nature of the security situation in the Presevo Valley and its adjacent areas requires urgent attention from, and action by, the Security Council, and I think we heard this today from the Minister when he made his remarks. In view of the new political realities in the region, issues such as that of refugees and missing persons warrant that UNMIK and KFOR consult with the authorities in Belgrade in an attempt to find a proper balance in addressing these problems.

In conclusion, once again I acknowledge UNMIK, KFOR and other international humanitarian agencies for their ongoing work in Kosovo. Finally, we thank the Foreign Minister for his presence.

Mr. Kuchynski (Ukraine): To begin with, I should like to join previous speakers in welcoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Svilanovic, to this Chamber. Let me also thank Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his

briefing, and welcome the report of the Secretary-General.

Taking into account that on 16 November my delegation spoke at length on the recent activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), particularly on the results of the municipal elections that were held in Kosovo on 28 October, my comments will be brief and will touch only on a number of recent events in Kosovo.

One of last month's major developments was the swearing-in on 20 November of the United Nations-appointed members of the municipal assemblies in the three predominantly Serb municipalities in which the results of the October elections could not be certified because of inadequate voter turnout. We support these acts by the Special Representative and note his public assertion that these are temporary measures. My delegation favours the Special Representative's intention to hold by-elections in these municipalities early next year to replace the appointed municipal authorities.

As regards the Mission's efforts to create mechanisms for ensuring respect for human rights, in our view the establishment on 21 November of the ombudsperson institution deserves special mention. That institution is an independent body designed to investigate and mediate complaints from individuals, groups and organizations regarding human rights violations.

In the area of the development of the rule of law, my country emphasizes the significance of the inauguration on 14 November of the Supreme Court of Kosovo. While we note the positive developments in Kosovo in the course of the last month, we cannot overlook the discouraging and even disturbing developments, in particular the upsurge of inter-ethnic, political and criminal violence in the province; insignificant returns by Kosovo Serb and national minorities; and the escalation of armed confrontation in the ground safety zone along the border between Serbia and Kosovo.

The latest acts of violence, which resulted in scores of deaths and injuries, testify to the fact that the security situation in and around Kosovo is far from being satisfactory. My delegation supported the statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 November and his statement to the press of 13 December in relation to these tragic events. A full

investigation into these violent and terrorist acts should be conducted effectively and their perpetrators brought to justice.

In this regard, my country appreciates all joint efforts undertaken by UNMIK and KFOR police to combat this renewed cycle of violence. We support in particular their coordinated law-enforcement actions through the mechanism of the Political Violence Task Force and the joint security operations to combat trafficking in, and to confiscate, illegal weapons. We hope that the Ukrainian special police dog unit, which completed its deployment in Kosovo just a few days ago, will contribute to broadening the capacities of UNMIK police in undertaking special security measures. In our view, the new regulation by the head of UNMIK of 4 December, allowing law-enforcement officials to order unruly persons away from specific areas, will also be helpful in ensuring the security of the province.

In the context of the protection of minority communities, my delegation welcomes the establishment by UNMIK on 29 November of a joint committee on the return of Ashkalija Roma people, which will assist these displaced communities to come back to their homes or resettle in other locations under appropriate security conditions.

It is our belief that, in the run-up to the Serbian election of 23 December, UNMIK and KFOR will again take all necessary measures, as was the case during the Yugoslav September elections, to prevent any security threats that may emerge.

Let me make a few comments on the situation in the Presevo Valley, which was the central subject of the statement made today by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In our view, the dangerous events of the past few weeks in southern Serbia should be seen as a serious warning to the Security Council and to the international community of what we can expect in the immediate future in Kosovo and, on a broader scale, in Serbia, unless additional measures to eliminate the existing challenges to security are undertaken now.

We commend the efforts by KFOR that brokered the ceasefire agreement between the Serbian police and ethnic Albanian militants, and we acknowledge the prudence and restraint of the Yugoslav Government in this situation. In our view, the provocative actions of the ethnic Albanian fighters from the self-styled

Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac, across the border between Kosovo and Serbia, are becoming increasingly defiant. This is made clear in the Secretary-General's report, which indicates that the military attacks against the Serbian police have increased in size, duration, sophistication and aggressiveness.

We condemn the latest attack on the joint Russia-United States KFOR patrol. In our view, these negative developments should stop immediately. In fact, the very existence of this armed group not only challenges stability in southern Serbia and Kosovo proper, but undermines all the strenuous efforts of the international community in pursuit of the very fragile peace process based on resolution 1244 (1999). It jeopardizes the prospects for the normalization of relations between the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNMIK and KFOR, and it threatens the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in the whole region.

Therefore, while praising KFOR efforts to ease the situation in the tense Kosovo border area, we encourage it and UNMIK to continue to take all possible robust measures to ensure adequate security for all inhabitants of Kosovo and to prevent any export of violence to southern Serbia.

My delegation welcomes the public statement made by the Secretary-General on 29 November. We are absolutely confident that the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac, which acts almost openly in the uncontrolled ground safety zone, should be disarmed and disbanded as soon as possible. For these purposes, we believe that a closer dialogue between UNMIK and KFOR, on the one side, and the Yugoslav Government, on the other, is highly needed.

We took note of the appointment by the Secretary-General of his new Special Representative and head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, Mr. Hans Haekkerup. We wish him every success in meeting the challenges of the leadership of one of the most complicated and truly unprecedented missions in United Nations history. My delegation would also like to pay a tribute to the efforts of the outgoing Special Representative, Mr. Bernard Kouchner.

Finally, we support the content of the draft presidential statement to be adopted today.

Mr. Toure (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I should like, in my turn, to thank the Secretary-General for his report and Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his very instructive briefing.

I also welcome Mr. Svilanovic, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to our meeting.

At the open meeting of 16 November, we welcomed the successful holding of elections on 28 October in Kosovo and the high level of participation in them, which did honour to the Kosovars, first and foremost, and to the entire international community, which did its utmost to ensure that the elections were held in a peaceful environment.

My delegation supports the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in its efforts to expand the membership of the Kosovo Transitional Council, taking into account the political, religious and ethnic diversity of the province. We also welcome the progress made in the establishment of municipal assemblies. We extend our support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with respect to his appointment of representatives of minority communities to elected assemblies in areas where they live.

We note with satisfaction that UNMIK is pursuing its consideration of reform of the existing central organs in the context of its efforts to ensure the establishment of institutions to promote increased self-government. The first regulations will soon be drafted.

With respect to security, we must acknowledge that, in the ground safety zone in southern Serbia, armed clashes intensified in mid-November between the Serbian security forces and the so-called Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac. My delegation remains deeply concerned by the situation in the Presevo Valley, where Albanian separatists are at work. We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by these armed groups and call for the cessation of all violence in that area. Such acts are intolerable to us, given their potential to destabilize the entire area and to negate the sacrifices made by the international community to ensure a democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo. We urge those armed groups to comply with the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement. We also encourage UNMIK and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to pursue their efforts to halt the illegal activities of the armed groups,

not only in Kosovo but throughout the ground safety zone.

We welcome the dismantling of barriers raised by Serb demonstrators protesting against activities of Albanian-speaking separatists in Serbia. This will help to ease tensions and to optimize opportunities for negotiation. We regret that minorities have been the targets of threats, acts of intimidation and violence in Kosovo. In this respect, we support the special security measures undertaken by UNMIK and KFOR to suppress such illegal activity.

With respect to the law, my delegation welcomes the efforts made by UNMIK and its Department of Justice to establish a dependable judiciary and to ensure the rule of law. We are concerned for the fate of Kosovar detainees in Serb prisons and by the disappearance of individuals. A solution must urgently be found to this grievous problem.

At the humanitarian level, we endorse the policy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to protect minorities. Particular attention must be paid to vulnerable groups.

My country gives its unreserved support to the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and believes that the essential issue of the status of the province must be resolved through cooperation and negotiation.

In conclusion, we pay a tribute to Mr. Bernard Kouchner, the outgoing head of UNMIK, for the work he has done in Kosovo. I offer his successor, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, the full support of my delegation.

Mr. Heinbecker (Canada) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Canada, I wish to commend the appointment of Mr. Hans Haekkerup as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo. Mr. Kouchner has established a solid basis for the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We have no doubt that Mr. Haekkerup will make excellent use of this very important legacy and will continue to lead Kosovo towards greater democracy, security and prosperity.

(*spoke in English*)

We also thank Mr. Annabi for his traditional good briefing on this issue and on others. We welcome the presence of Foreign Minister Svilanovic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and have taken careful note of the points he made to us in his statement.

With respect to the situation in the Presevo Valley, Canada remains deeply concerned by the potentially destabilizing impact of violence by a marginal group of armed extremists. We fully support the presidential statement to be issued today on this subject. We also support the efforts made to date by the international community to reduce tensions, for example through the more stringent control by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) of the administrative boundary between Kosovo and Serbia, including the efforts made to block the transit of recruits, supplies and weapons into the Presevo Valley. We also condemn the recent attack on the KFOR joint patrol and, more generally, all violence in the area. We hope KFOR's resolve will help to reduce that violence.

The ongoing political dialogue between UNMIK and Yugoslav and Serbian authorities is crucial, both for the issues involved in the Presevo Valley and for other issues affecting Kosovo, such as the problem of detained Kosovar Albanians in Serbian jails. Canada appreciates the work done by international organizations, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in the Presevo Valley, which has assisted the return of refugees to the region. The presence of international observers has had an important stabilizing effect.

We also applaud the moderate reaction of the Yugoslav and Serbian Governments to the acts of violence in southern Serbia. Yugoslav army and Serbian police units have respected the terms of the Military-Technical Agreement and avoided any escalation of violence. We encourage Yugoslavia to continue its cooperation with the international community and urge the Kosovar Albanian leadership to do its part to prevent the support of armed groups.

Once the 23 December elections in Serbia are completed, the international community should examine the options for greater cooperation for security in the Presevo Valley. With the constructive engagement of a democratic Government in Belgrade, of moderate Albanian leaders and of the international community, we can all at last look forward with some optimism to the future.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Russian Federation.

I wish at the outset to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, and to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2000/1196). My thanks go also to Mr. Annabi for his presentation of that report.

The change in the leadership of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to take place in January 2001 provides a good opportunity for an impartial assessment of the Mission's achievements and shortcomings, and to identify ways and means to rectify the errors permitted by the previous head of UNMIK. The Mission's principal activities involve consistent implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) in its entirety; it must permit no modification of those endeavours, no matter what the pretext.

It is no secret that, as in the past, that Security Council resolution is being implemented partially and unsatisfactorily, despite the efforts being made by the international presences. In that connection, we view it as essential that the Security Council and the Secretary-General ensure tighter control over the activities of UNMIK. The situation is absolutely intolerable; the plans of the head of UNMIK, including on matters of principle, were often made known to the Security Council, its members and the United Nations at large only through the mass media.

It is imperative immediately to establish constructive cooperation among UNMIK, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Yugoslav authorities on all matters connected with the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). Here, I am speaking, *inter alia*, of settling the question of the status of the international presences through the signing of corresponding agreements with Belgrade, ensuring conditions for the return to the region of refugees and displaced persons, and preparing a timetable and conditions for the return to Kosovo of Yugoslav military and Serbian police personnel. Finally, we need at least the start of a political process that will lead in the foreseeable future to a comprehensive settlement of the Kosovo problem.

It is inadmissible that the formula for the future political status of Kosovo should be determined by some self-anointed task force headed by UNMIK, which has no Security Council mandate whatsoever for such an activity. Despite our repeated requests, the Security Council remains unaware of what the task force is doing. The new head of UNMIK, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, whom we wish success and good luck, should take a lesson from the unfortunate history of his

predecessor — when UNMIK connived with the separatist sentiments of the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians. Only the balanced and principled position of the international presences can halt the unrelenting wave of extremism and separatism, both in Kosovo and in other parts of Serbia, including the Presevo Valley.

We consider that the head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, in close cooperation with KFOR, should enact measures for the true completion of the process of demilitarizing the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), rather than its completion merely on paper; these should make it impossible for post-KLA structures to actively influence the political situation and should prevent the illegal flow of weapons to those structures. Such measures by UNMIK and KFOR would be a key precondition for ensuring the safety of minorities in Kosovo and for creating the necessary conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Only after such a process of return becomes irreversible will it be possible, with the direct involvement of Belgrade, to formulate the parameters of Kosovo's autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Then it will be possible to address the question of preparing for general elections. We are convinced that the Security Council should decide on the time frame for such elections taking thorough account of all those factors.

To force general elections at an earlier date — which the outgoing head of the Mission was attempting to do — would only strengthen the mono-ethnic character of Kosovo, stir up nationalist feelings in heavily Albanian areas in southern Serbia and exacerbate the crisis in the ground safety zone of the Presevo Valley. All of this poses the threat of a fresh upsurge of tension in the Balkans. It is a matter of urgent necessity now to eliminate the consequences of the provocative actions of Albanian extremists in the ground safety zone, and to prevent their resumption, as called for in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 November 2000 (S/PRST/2000/35).

KFOR has taken concrete steps to thwart provocative attacks by Albanian fighters in the region, but that is clearly not enough. I recall the declaration issued by the governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia on principles for the defence of the Government and the national interests of the

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in connection with the escalation of Albanian terrorism in Kosovo and in the ground safety zone. We should thoroughly consider the measures for the urgent withdrawal, detention and disarmament of Albanian terrorists operating with impunity in the ground safety zone.

UNMIK and KFOR should ensure that the work of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia committee on questions relating to Kosovo and Metohija can be carried out in safety and without interference. Conditions should be created that will be favourable to the holding in Kosovo of the 23 December elections to the Serbian parliament. We hope that, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, UNMIK and KFOR will take the measures necessary to ensure security with a view to thwarting the attempts of Kosovo Albanian extremists to use those elections to destabilize the situation in the region.

Nor can we fail to be concerned at certain reports and at statements by some Kosovo Albanian leaders who are considered to be moderate. Here, I am thinking, inter alia, of the interview given by Ibrahim Rugova to the weekly *Der Spiegel*, in which he said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is already acting as a "private army of the Albanians" in Kosovo. And as for UNMIK, Mr. Rugova said that the Mission would be able, for a long time to come,

"to remain in the region to provide assistance during the transition to independence, but with a reduction in personnel".

It is obvious that such statements contradict the decisions of the international community and should meet with a proper response from the international presences.

The Security Council should promote the speedy conclusion of the process of reintegrating the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a full-fledged member of the world community. That would constitute real support for the efforts of the new leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to bring about democracy and reform in Yugoslav society on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and of respect for the rights of all the peoples that live there, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).

The statement by the President of the Security Council, which we expect to issue shortly, should be a concrete step towards resolving these issues.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are no further speakers on the list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4250th meeting

Tuesday, 19 December 2000, 1.20 p.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Cappagli
	Bangladesh	Mr. Sorcar
	Canada	Mr. Heinbecker
	China	Mr. Zhou Fei
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Amran
	Mali	Mr. Toure
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Tunisia	Mr. Cherif
	Ukraine	Mr. Sobko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2000/1196).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.



The meeting was called to order at 1.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2000/1196)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now resume consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, which is contained in document S/2000/1196.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the briefing by Mr. Annabi on 19 December and the presence of the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the meeting.

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the situation in certain municipalities in southern Serbia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and particularly in the ground safety zone, as defined in the military-technical agreement referred to in annex 2 of resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. It strongly condemns the violent action by ethnic Albanian extremist groups in southern Serbia and calls for an immediate and complete cessation of violence in this area. The Council reiterates its resolution 1244 (1999) in its entirety.

"The Security Council calls for the dissolution of ethnic Albanian extremist groups. The Council also calls for the immediate withdrawal from the area, and in particular from the ground safety zone, of all non-residents engaged in extremist activities.

"The Council welcomes the start of a dialogue between the Serbian and Yugoslav

authorities and representatives of the affected communities, which could facilitate a lasting settlement to the problem.

"In this regard, the Council welcomes the commitment of the Yugoslav authorities to work towards a peaceful settlement, based on democratic principles, and to respect the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement, as expressed in the letter of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the President of the Security Council of 13 December 2000 (S/2000/1184).

"The Security Council welcomes specific measures taken by the international security presence (KFOR) to address the problem, including increased surveillance of the border, confiscation of weapons and the disruption of identified and illegal activity within Kosovo in the vicinity of the eastern administrative boundary. It welcomes the constructive dialogue between KFOR and the Yugoslav and Serbian authorities, including through the Joint Implementation Commission. The Council calls on KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to continue to make all necessary efforts to address the problem. The Council also calls on Kosovo Albanian leaders to contribute to the stability of the situation.

"The Security Council welcomes the detailed public statement of the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization of 29 November 2000, and the strong message which this sent to extremist groups in the Presevo-Medveda-Bujanovac area.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/40.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4251st meeting

Tuesday, 19 December 2000, 4 p.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	Canada	Mr. Heinbecker
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Youssef
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.



The meeting was called to order at 4 30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted

The situation in Afghanistan

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Sharma (India), Ms. Ibraimova (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. Alimov (Tajikistan) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2000/1202, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by India, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and the United States of America.

I give the floor to the representative of Afghanistan.

Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan) (*spoke in French*): First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December 2000. May I also congratulate your predecessor on the skill with which he presided over the Council last month.

In resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, the Security Council made it clear that the suppression of international terrorism is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security. In the same

resolution, the Council forcefully condemned the fact that terrorists continue to be made welcome and trained in the areas controlled by the Taliban, and that acts of terrorism take place there.

The Pakistan/Taliban/bin Laden alliance has categorically refused to cooperate with the international community or to put an end to the training and haven it provides to international terrorists. In addition, that alliance has given new dimensions to terrorist activities and to extremists from all corners of the Earth. This fact was mentioned by the Secretary-General in his report of 20 November 2000:

"There have also been persistent reports of the involvement of a substantial number of Arabs, Chechens, Pakistanis, Uighurs and other outsiders fighting alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan" (S/2000/1106, para. 37)

In response to that intransigence, the Security Council is considering the imposition of new measures. The Council is studying a new draft resolution in keeping with its responsibilities under the Charter. Here, we are grateful to Council members for having included clear and explicit provisions for the implementation of sanctions in such a way that they will not hamper the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population. Cautious use will thus be made of sanctions, in order to spare innocent people.

By the terms of the draft resolution, we look forward to the Security Council employing all possible monitoring mechanisms to put a halt to transfers of weapons and ammunition and to the continued dispatch from Pakistan of the armed Pakistanis and military personnel who are helping the terrorists in Afghanistan, and so that all Pakistani military personnel and so-called volunteers will immediately leave Afghan soil.

The draft resolution on which the Council will take action today does not deal with a peaceful settlement of the present conflict in Afghanistan, and it is silent on Pakistan's well-known aggression in Afghanistan. The draft resolution addresses one specific issue: the terrorism originating from that part of Afghan territory that is under military occupation by the diabolical Pakistan-Taliban-bin-Laden alliance.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We affirm that the suppression of international terrorism is

essential for the maintenance of international peace and security. We consider that terrorism is but one of the many effects of the military aggression against Afghanistan. The Security Council should therefore address the problem of Afghanistan in its entirety. It is our fear that the Pakistan-Taliban-bin-Laden axis could interpret the draft resolution before the Council to mean that they can continue their atrocities and their violence against the Afghan people, so long as they simply put an end to their activities outside Afghan territory.

We note with regret that the Security Council is not considering the active role of the Pakistani military junta and Pakistan's well-known military intelligence service, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the close links between that organization and international terrorist networks. In fact, the ISI constantly recruits, among "Islamic" extremist groups, people whom it trains, arms and sends to Afghanistan accompanied by Pakistani military personnel.

We convey our gratitude to the Secretary-General, who in paragraphs 23 and 81 of his 20 November 2000 report on the situation in Afghanistan indicated that there are a significant number of non-Afghan combatants, essentially from Pakistan, fighting alongside the Taliban; most are from Pakistani *madrassahs*. In his report, the Secretary-General adds that there is outside involvement in the planning and logistical support of Taliban military operations.

On the basis of what the Secretary-General has reported, we are in a position to affirm that there are very close ideological, organizational, political and military links between the international terrorist network and Pakistan's ISI. Pakistani religious schools, or *madrassahs*, are centres for indoctrination and regimentation, used by the Pakistani army to train armed personnel. Thus, in July 1999, following the withdrawal of soldiers and extremist fighters from the Kargil region of Kashmir, some of those fighters were taken, in Pakistani military trucks, north of Kabul to the Afghan provinces of Parwān and Kāpīsā to reinforce the Taliban armed forces in their acts of repression based on ethnic segregation. Pakistani prisoners held by our side have made unambiguous confessions to that effect.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan continues to be gravely concerned at the recent deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries,

which is a direct consequence of the policy of military occupation and the training of terrorists endorsed by the Pakistani army; we therefore wish to make the following comments.

First, the population of Afghanistan has undergone genuine persecution by the terrorists and by elements affiliated with a whole range of international terrorist organizations from South-East Asia, South Asia and the Middle East, whom the Pakistani army continues to recruit through its military intelligence service, the ISI. Pakistan remains the sole provider of weapons and materiel to the terrorists who, in ever greater numbers, come to Pakistan from all over the world.

Secondly, the Islamic State of Afghanistan affirms that it is inadmissible for Afghan soil to continue to be used to wage war and commit hostile acts that jeopardize the security and stability of third States in the region and beyond. Pakistan will bear sole responsibility for possible retaliation against Afghanistan, which could involve loss of life and the destruction of property.

We stress that the Islamic State of Afghanistan is convinced that the acts just described constitute flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council should immediately be seized of the question of armed aggression against Afghanistan, which falls under Chapter VII, Articles 39 to 42, of the Charter. Pakistan's aggression and the terrorism and other activities sponsored by Pakistan pose a threat to regional security and hamper development and cooperation in the region; they should be denounced, condemned and combated through appropriate measures.

The Pakistani military intelligence service, the ISI, must be recognized as a criminal organization responsible for the war of aggression, for crimes against humanity and for war crimes. The Pakistani army must no longer think it is safe from being identified as responsible. We demand that the Council appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the issue of military aggression in Afghanistan and to present its conclusions to the Council. In addition to noting Pakistan's aggression in Afghanistan, the Council could decide to compensate Afghanistan, through those bearing responsibility, for the material damage, the loss of human life and the plundering of Afghan cultural property caused by Pakistan's war of

aggression, which Pakistan has been waging since April 1992.

For justice to prevail, the real instigator of and key figure in the instability, the centre of indoctrination and regimentation of terrorists and the cause of tension in the region — Pakistan — must be the object of future sanctions by the Security Council. That would constitute the real effective solution to the Afghan problem.

This draft resolution clearly shows that foreign elements, coming basically from Pakistan and in alliance with terrorists from different countries, are those really responsible for the terrorist activities. The Afghan people themselves have never made use of terrorism. The Taliban have given an inaccurate picture of Afghanistan — an inaccurate image of the Afghan people to the world at large.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I thank the representative of Afghanistan for the kind words addressed he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Agam (Malaysia): Malaysia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and has joined in international efforts to combat this menace. Malaysia, also, does not reject the use of sanctions provided for in the Charter as a necessary coercive measure as long as the sanctions are taken as a measure of last resort short of the use of force, are targeted, have minimal humanitarian impact on the population at large and have a specific time-frame.

It was for these reasons that my delegation supported resolution 1267 of 15 October 1999, which imposed sanctions on the Taliban, in spite of a number of reservations we had on the resolution. However, we have difficulty in supporting the additional measures being contemplated against the Taliban contained in the draft resolution before the Council, on both procedural as well as substantive grounds.

Paragraph 6 (c) of resolution 1267 had tasked the Afghan sanctions committee to undertake periodic impact assessments of the sanctions. We believe that only through such assessments will the Council be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the sanctions and their effects on the population of Afghanistan, which is not the target of the sanctions and should therefore not be adversely affected by them. Regrettably, no such periodic assessments were carried out. Instead, in a belated attempt to "comply" with resolution 1267, a joint impact assessment was made by the two most interested members of the Council. This joint impact assessment does not satisfy, procedurally or substantively, the specific requirement of resolution 1267 for the simple reason that it was submitted to the sanctions committee just before the submission of this draft resolution and therefore cannot, in all seriousness, be described as a periodic report to the Committee. Neither was it an "objective" or "impartial" assessment, given the fact that it was jointly submitted by the two most interested members of the Council, who are most directly involved in the entire exercise and have the most vested interest in the subject. The joint report does not reflect a serious effort to improve the design of the sanctions regime and is at variance with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) own authoritative and comprehensive study drawn from extensive observations of the situation on the ground.

The design of any sanctions regime should be a careful and well-thought-out process, with emphasis on its effectiveness and, more importantly, on minimization of its humanitarian impact. OCHA asserts that the direct impact of current measures on the humanitarian situation is indeed limited but not without some indirect impact that is both tangible and intangible. The high levels of vulnerability of the people of Afghanistan are likely to exacerbate the impact of what would otherwise be fairly insignificant effects of the sanctions regime. The imposition of additional measures will exacerbate the sense of isolation and despair of the people of Afghanistan, living as they are in an impoverished, landlocked country, and suffering from the debilitating effects of a long and protracted war and the worst drought in a generation. These additional measures might also lead to the deterioration of the humanitarian operational environment in the Taliban-controlled areas in Afghanistan, especially if the Taliban were to withhold its cooperation with the ongoing activities of the

international humanitarian agencies operating in its areas of control. Given the high dependence of the Afghan population on international humanitarian assistance for their survival, these additional measures against the Taliban may pose serious risks to current and future humanitarian programmes on the ground. These are risks we should not gamble on. We should be mindful of the warning given by the Afghan Support Group — the group of international donors — about the inherent risks of doing anything that may cause yet more misery for the long-suffering civilian population of Afghanistan.

My delegation is also concerned at the negative impact of such measures on the peace process — a process which the Council had strongly supported. The Secretary-General's Special Representative on Afghanistan, Mr. Francesc Vendrell, in a recent briefing of the Council, expressed the hope that the beginning of a new negotiating process among the conflicting parties might lead to substantive talks and, in a direct reference to the additional measures being contemplated, he in fact cautioned about their timing. We should heed his cautionary words of advice. We believe that every effort should be made to support the fledgling peace process and that Mr. Vendrell, who, after all, has only recently undertaken his mission, should be given the opportunity to exhaust his efforts, which are at the initial stage. In the quagmire of Afghanistan, any glimmer of hope, any chink of light, should be pursued. The Council should be supportive, not dismissive of any peace effort, however unpromising its prospects in the short term. Rolling back the threat of international terrorism — important though it is — is only one aspect of the business of the Council. Furthering the peace process is an equally important mission, which should not be relegated to the back-burner simply because of impatience or frustration at the slow or insignificant progress made thus far.

My delegation also has reservations on the imposition of measures against the Taliban that, in effect, interfere with the country's civil war. The one-sided arms embargo on the Taliban is a measure that, in our view, compromises the essential neutrality of the Council. Without that necessary neutrality the Council will undermine its own role and credibility. Also, while we support the ban on acetic anhydride, the wording of the operative paragraph sends out the wrong signal and might compromise the work of the United Nations anti-

drug programme in the region. It would imply that the sale, supply or transfer of the chemical to non-Taliban-controlled areas is tolerated. We would, of course, have supported a universal arms embargo and a complete ban on the chemical in Afghanistan.

The Council should empathize and sympathize with the plight of the despairing people of Afghanistan, rather than impose measures that further isolate them and some of which will have a direct or indirect impact on their well-being, given the fact that the Taliban controls over 90 per cent of Afghanistan's territory.

My delegation had wished that we could have joined other members of the Council in supporting the draft resolution. We had wished that most of our reservations would have been taken on board and that, above all, precedence would have been given to following the correct procedure rather than to political expediency, which seems to be the case judging by the manner in which the draft resolution has been steam-rolled through. As a legal measure, every care should have been taken to ensure that the sanctions regime against the Taliban is not politicized. Under the circumstances, my delegation will abstain on the draft resolution.

Mr. Hamer (Netherlands): The Netherlands supports the political objectives of the draft resolution before us. There can be no doubt whatsoever that we utterly reject and condemn international terrorism. The same goes for the illegal international trafficking of drugs, which, in the case of Afghanistan, provides the financial basis for the Taliban's support of international terrorism. Given these considerations, the Netherlands thinks it is important that the Security Council should send a political signal and send it with one voice. Therefore, we will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

We appreciate that the authors of the draft resolution have made a serious effort to target the new sanctions in order to limit as much as possible their impact on the civilian population of Afghanistan. However, we wish to put on record that the Netherlands continues to be seriously worried about the humanitarian impact of additional sanctions. The way in which the authors of the draft resolution before us have tended to dismiss the serious concerns voiced in the briefing of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has done nothing to allay our worries about this aspect of the draft resolution.

Against this background, we call on the Security Council to continue to weigh the possible humanitarian and political impact of its sanctions against the Council's wider political objectives. The Netherlands recognizes that the extent of the humanitarian impact of the current draft resolution will depend on the attitude of the Taliban. It is not acceptable that the Taliban should use the adoption of the current draft resolution as a pretext for blocking the delivery of humanitarian aid or for otherwise hampering the activities of international humanitarian organizations. The Council will not allow international or local humanitarian workers to become the victims of attacks instigated by Taliban anger over this draft resolution.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): For more than a year now the Taliban have continued to ignore the demand of the Security Council in resolution 1267 (1999) to hand over Usama bin Laden. They have also continued their support for international terrorism and their provision of safe haven and training facilities for terrorists in the territory under their control. This cannot be tolerated by the international community. It is therefore appropriate that the Council should respond by imposing further measures against the Taliban.

The draft resolution which the Council is about to adopt is carefully targeted to ensure that it will exert pressure exclusively on the Taliban and on Usama bin Laden and his associates. The Council has taken great care in designing the draft resolution to ensure that the measures imposed will not have an adverse impact on ordinary Afghans, who have suffered for far too long already. We call on the Taliban to allow aid agencies and international organizations to carry on their vital work in safety and without hindrance. The action taken by the Council today should have no bearing on the activities of those providing aid to the Afghan people.

I would like to conclude by calling on the Taliban to comply urgently with the demands of the Council in the draft resolution we are about to adopt and in resolution 1267 (1999) so that the measures decided on today may not have to be applied. This would be in their own interests, and it would also be very much in the interests of neighbouring countries, the wider international community and the Afghan people as a whole.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): The French delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Security Council today. We associate ourselves with the appeal this draft resolution makes to the Taliban to abide by Security Council 1267 (1999). We hope that it puts an end to all support for terrorist activity. With regard to drugs, we call on the Taliban to halt all trafficking and to implement their decree of 28 July 2000 totally prohibiting the cultivation of opium poppy.

France is particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the continuation of operations of assistance to the Afghan people, to which this draft resolution should not be an obstacle. To that end, the draft resolution provides an exception for flights organized by humanitarian organizations that are duly registered. We demand that the Taliban ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and humanitarian organization personnel in Afghanistan and to ensure them free and unimpeded access to the population so that they can continue their activities to assist all vulnerable individuals.

The draft resolution we will be adopting takes into account two other concerns of the French delegation. First, the sanctions are established for a limited time period, although they are renewable if the Council so decides. This will be the third time this year that the Council has issued a time-bound sanctions regime. Thus, we see in practice the formation of a new Council doctrine that is conducive to avoiding the perpetuation of sanctions for indefinite time periods.

Secondly, we are satisfied with the provisions of the draft resolution regarding the one-month period provided for drawing up the list of humanitarian agencies and organizations authorized to organize flights. The importance and urgency of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan means that the Committee will have to work as quickly as possible to draw up that list, which, in my delegation's view, must be as broad as possible.

Mr. Krokmal (Ukraine): The Government of Ukraine fully supports the draft resolution before us as an appropriate and timely measure. Ukraine regrets that the Taliban continue to ignore the clear demands of Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). Afghan territory under Taliban control is used for sheltering and training terrorists. This is unacceptable.

The most alarming thing is that Afghanistan, which has been devastated by 20 years of war, has become one of the world's major producers of opium. The international community has continually expressed its grave concern over that unacceptable practice and condemned it. It has also repeatedly warned the Taliban leadership about the possibility of additional measures to be imposed. Unfortunately, the Taliban have ignored all these appeals and continue to disregard the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Secretary-General's report on the region and the reports of humanitarian agencies have provided us on a regular basis with an alarming picture of the Taliban's ongoing policy of violating humanitarian law, flagrant violations of human rights, maltreatment of the civil population, violence and continuing discrimination against girls and women.

My delegation is particularly concerned about the continuing threat to the safety and security of United Nations and humanitarian personnel. We strongly condemn the acts of violence and intimidation against these personnel. The humanitarian situation in the country is drastic. Its population continues to live under the most deplorable conditions. This deplorable humanitarian situation has required a very careful approach in drafting these draft resolutions in order to avoid possible negative impacts of additional measures. The sponsors of the draft resolution, and the Council in general, attach particular importance to this issue. We are satisfied that these concerns have been taken into account and properly reflected in the text of the draft resolution.

We are also pleased to note that the draft establishes time limits for the imposition of the sanctions regime. We are satisfied that the problem of humanitarian flights has been resolved, thereby allowing humanitarian agencies to deliver expeditiously goods to those who are desperately in need. Accordingly, we expect that the Taliban will provide unimpeded access by United Nations and humanitarian relief personnel to the most vulnerable part of the Afghan population and guarantee the safety and security of those personnel.

The draft resolution, in our view, is well balanced and structured. It is targeted and has clear and well-defined goals. By the adoption of these additional measures, the Council also sends a clear message to the Taliban regarding the termination of the sanctions regime. It is full compliance with the provisions of this

draft resolution that will eventually lead to the lifting of the sanctions.

Ms. Soderberg (United States of America): Today the Security Council takes a strong stand against terrorism and for the maintenance of international peace and security. As we speak, the Taliban leadership harbours the world's most wanted terrorist, Usama bin Laden.

Over a year ago, this body enacted sanctions with a single, simple demand to the Taliban leadership: turn over Usama bin Laden, without further delay, to appropriate authorities in a country where he will be arrested and effectively brought to justice. Yet to date the terrorists remain in Afghanistan, and let no one misunderstand: they remain a continuing threat to us all.

The Taliban cannot continue to flout the will of the international community and support and shelter terrorists without repercussions. As long as the Taliban leadership continues to harbour terrorists, in particular Usama bin Laden, and to promote terrorism, it remains a threat to international peace and security. We must be mindful that terrorists are criminals, whatever their ethnic, religious or other affiliations. We oppose their crimes, not any religious or moral cause they purport to represent. It is in the common interest of all nations to fight terrorism. Any country that provides refuge or other support to terrorists operates outside the values of the international community.

These sanctions are tough, but they are targeted. They do not cut off trade with Afghanistan. We have taken care to ensure that trade in food and medicine is not affected. These sanctions are targeted at the leadership of the Taliban, and not at the Afghan people. We all share a deep concern over the deplorable plight of the Afghan people, but it is important to remember that the cause of that misery is war, drought and the draconian policies of the leadership, not a ban on Taliban aircraft and assets.

The Taliban policies have aggravated the already abysmal economic and social conditions of the people of Afghanistan. The Taliban violates international humanitarian law and human rights, particularly by discriminating against women and girls. The United States is doing its part to address this crisis. We are the biggest donor to Afghanistan, with our aid this year to the people totalling \$113 million. We also continue to

help meet the Afghan people's humanitarian needs, while targeting their leadership.

The United States takes the Taliban threat to humanitarian aid workers very seriously and is taking a range of measures to hold the Taliban leadership responsible for their proper treatment. The Council must not allow the Taliban leaders to blackmail it by threatening international personnel, the Afghan people's benefactors.

Let me be perfectly clear: the Taliban has an obligation to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers and all United Nations personnel at all times. These dedicated individuals are in Afghanistan working for the welfare of the Afghan people, under extremely difficult circumstances. The Taliban must ensure that these individuals are able to carry on their work in safety and security, providing vital assistance to the Afghan people. That is the responsibility of the Taliban. The Afghan people deserve peace and a chance to rebuild their lives under a broad-based, representative government that respects their culture and traditions.

We applaud the efforts of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Francesc Vendrell, to promote a peaceful settlement. The people have suffered for too long. But until that day, the international community must stand firm against terrorism. With this important action today, the Security Council sends an unequivocal message to the Taliban: end your support for terrorism. Let us hope that they will at last heed our call.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1999/1202) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, France, Gabon, Gambia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

None

Abstaining:

China, Malaysia

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The result of the voting is as follows: 13 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1333 (2000).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): In principle, China is not in favour of easily resorting to sanctions or of their repeated use. We have always maintained that sanctions should be adopted with great caution and prudence. Sanctions, as a tool available to the Security Council, are a double-edged sword, especially in cases where they are being strengthened. Even though their effects may be limited, they can also easily harm innocent people. Therefore, sanctions should be adopted or strengthened only when circumstances make it absolutely necessary.

As a friendly neighbour of Afghanistan, China has closely followed developments in the situation in that country. As a result of protracted war and the most severe drought in nearly 40 years, coupled with United Nations sanctions and many other factors, Afghanistan's humanitarian situation has become extremely serious.

According to the report of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, the direct impact of the current sanctions on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is obvious, and substantial indirect effects are evident as well. A new round of sanctions would undoubtedly make the situation even worse. The innocent Afghan people are increasingly feeling abandoned by the international community, isolated and in an extremely vulnerable state. They cannot cope with the effects of any measures that could lead to the further deterioration of the situation. We deeply sympathize with them and feel strong concern at their situation.

China supports the Afghan peace process. A fundamental improvement in the humanitarian situation there will be possible only when a ceasefire is achieved and negotiations resumed. As a result of the good offices of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, the belligerent parties in Afghanistan are now prepared to resume peace talks. A new round of sanctions at this time will naturally have a negative

impact on the Afghan peace process. Furthermore, a unilateral arms embargo simply cannot achieve the objective of enhancing the peace process in Afghanistan. We are deeply concerned about this.

China is firmly opposed to all forms of terrorism and illegal drug trafficking. Bearing in mind this principled position, we participated in consultations on the resolution before the Council in a constructive spirit. Regrettably, however, our main amendments have not been accepted. Therefore we were compelled to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

Mr. Heinbecker (Canada) (*spoke in French*): As we have stated in this Chamber on several occasions, and most recently on 6 December when the Council considered the follow-up to resolution 1269 (1999), Canada attaches priority to the international fight against terrorism. We believe that the Security Council has an important role to play in eliminating terrorism, and we welcome its continued determination to do so.

(*spoke in English*)

The Taliban's defiance of resolution 1267 (1999) and its continued support for international terrorism are simply unacceptable. We voted in favour of the resolution before the Council today because of the strong anti-terrorism message that it sends. The resolution is also a clear signal that the Council is serious about its demands and that the Taliban must comply with its international obligations. It is in everyone's interests, not least the United Nations corporate interest, that sanctions the United Nations imposes be respected.

With the inclusion of a number of important provisions in this resolution, the Council is also responding to the growing international consensus on the need to ensure that measures imposed by the Council are both carefully targeted and sensitive to humanitarian considerations. We believe the resolution could have been stronger on this score, but we welcome the establishment of a committee of experts to monitor and report on the implementation of the sanctions and to provide an early assessment of humanitarian impacts.

As Canada leaves the Security Council, we remind those that will remain, and those that will join them, that they have a heavy responsibility to vigorously and objectively monitor the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and to respond as necessary to

ensure that the civilian population does not suffer needlessly as a result of these new sanctions. Failure to do so could call into question the Council's commitment to a smart, targeted sanctions policy and could have grave human costs. The long-running conflict in Afghanistan has taken a devastating toll on civilians.

In April of this year, former Canadian Foreign Minister Axworthy chaired a meeting of this body devoted to Afghanistan and called for more determined action by the Council to address the conflict itself. As we have seen over the past months, violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by both parties to the conflict continue unabated. The violation of the human rights of women and girls is particularly deplorable.

Canada has suggested a number of steps that the Council could take, including increased attention to the issues of humanitarian access and respect for human rights, and enhanced efforts by the United Nations in the search for peace and reconciliation. We have also called for Council measures to pressure the warring factions to come to the negotiating table, and we encourage the Council to give serious consideration to widening the arms embargo to include all parties to the conflict.

We encourage the Council to address the conflict itself and to consider ways to hasten the end of the interminable war and the desperate conditions endured by the people of Afghanistan.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I will now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Russian Federation.

Russia agrees with all the arguments that have already been presented here in favour of the need to tighten sanctions against the Taliban in connection with their complete ignoring of all the demands of the Security Council, first and foremost the demand for a cessation of support for international terrorism. I will not here reiterate all those arguments that were voiced by the majority of my colleagues who spoke.

I want to say a few words regarding those arguments that were expressed in connection with the doubts of some members of the Security Council concerning the necessity of adopting this resolution.

First, reference was made to the fact that the arms embargo that is being imposed in accordance with the

resolution just adopted is, in fact, one-sided. However, I would like to emphasize that the one-sided nature of this embargo is fully justified. It is precisely the Taliban who have always banked on using military means to resolve the Afghan problem and who are continuing to bank on such means. Also, it is precisely the Taliban who have offered their territory for the use and protection of terrorists and who openly support Chechen, Uzbek, Tajik, Uigur and other extremists. Therefore, the weapons that end up in the hands of the Taliban are used not only for the civil war in Afghanistan, but also, we are convinced, in order to support international terrorism. Given this, there was nothing for the Security Council to do but impose a one-sided arms embargo.

Secondly, arguments are being put forward to the effect that the resolution just adopted may have a negative impact on the peace process. In particular, reference was made to the fact that on 2 November the Taliban and the Northern Alliance agreed in writing to resume negotiations. In this connection I would like to say that already on many occasions the Taliban have promised, both orally and in other forms, to begin the negotiating process, and each time they went back on their word. As far as we know, they have also gone back on the obligation that they entered into on 2 November and signed. The Taliban is continuing to refuse to respond to the numerous appeals made to them by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Francisc Vendrell, regarding the proposed agenda for a political dialogue. Thus they are continuing to boycott the political process and continuing to bank on war.

Therefore, I would venture to say that the negative impact on the peace process will not be exerted by the Security Council resolution, but by the consistent policy of the Taliban. Naturally, no one — the Russian Federation least of all — is going to close the door on the possibility that the Taliban might finally participate honestly and with good will in negotiations on a political settlement in Afghanistan. This door continues to remain open, and the resolution that has just been adopted does not close it.

The third argument that was put forward by colleagues who have expressed doubts about the resolution concerned its humanitarian implications. Previous speakers have already discussed how the major cause of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, aside from the drought, is the war. Tens of thousands of Afghans are fleeing this war and the Taliban's most

flagrant violations of human rights, which are also causing suffering in the Afghan population. This is the precise cause of the humanitarian disaster, and, unfortunately, the assessments of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Islamabad failed to take into account objective factors that are not linked to the positions of the Security Council but are the direct result of Taliban policies.

In addition I would like to recall here that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Islamabad decided to inform all those who wished to know about their assessments via an unusual procedure: by placing these assessments on the Internet, instead of bringing them to the Security Council. Standard procedure was thus flagrantly violated, and naturally this could not fail to distress those delegations who had more objective information than what had been distributed by the Islamabad division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Despite all of this, as has already been stated by many of my colleagues, the resolution just adopted contains all of the necessary humanitarian exemptions. The sanctions are, in fact, targeted. They are targeted exclusively at the leaders of the Taliban and not at the Afghan people. They contain humanitarian exemptions; humanitarian assistance can be provided without constraint and automatically. And the sanctions have time limits, at the end of which they will have to be renewed.

The last argument that is being raised in connection with the humanitarian consequences involves concerns that after the adoption of this resolution, the Taliban may expel the humanitarian personnel of the United Nations and of non-governmental organizations.

If the Security Council takes such threats into account, we will become the direct victims of blackmail. We will be seen not as the organ responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, but as one that acquiesces to blackmail. That would be analogous to our deciding to rescind the sanctions against UNITA because it is shooting down United Nations aircraft carrying humanitarian assistance. That would be quite the same thing and I am very gratified that the Security Council did not yield to such blackmail.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council. of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional
English only

4251st meeting

Tuesday, 19 December 2000, 4 p.m.
New York

Corrigendum

Page 8

The voting results should read:

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Jamaica, Mali, Namibia,
Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

None

Abstaining:

China, Malaysia





Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4252nd meeting

Thursday, 21 December 2000, 1:15 p.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Mowla
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Kaxuxwena
	Netherlands	Mr. Mollema
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Pyvovarov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Guinea following recent attacks along its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.



The meeting was called to order at 1 15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted

The situation in Guinea following recent attacks along its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the members of the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Guinea, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fall (Guinea) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting today in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have received photocopies of a letter dated 16 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under symbol S/2000/1201.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at developments on the border that Guinea shares with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the recent incursions into Guinea by rebel groups coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone that have affected villages and towns along the entire length of Guinea's border, including in Gueckedou on 6 December 2000 and in Kissidougou on 10 December 2000. The Council

deplores the fact that these attacks claimed many lives, in particular the lives of civilians, and caused an exodus of local inhabitants and refugees, further exacerbating an already grave humanitarian situation. The Council also condemns the recent looting of the facilities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations. The Council demands an immediate halt to all acts of violence, especially those directed against civilians, as well as the infiltration of displaced persons camps by armed elements, and that those responsible for the violations of international humanitarian law be brought to justice.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Guinea. It expresses its serious concern, in this regard, over reports that external military support is being provided to these rebel groups. It calls on all States, particularly Liberia, to refrain from providing any such military support and from any act that might contribute to further destabilization of the situation on the borders between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Council further calls upon all States in the region to prevent armed individuals from using their national territory to prepare and commit attacks in neighbouring countries.

"The Security Council notes with interest the common undertakings assumed by Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone at the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held in Bamako on 15 and 16 December 2000 (S/2000/1201, annex) and calls upon them to implement those undertakings fully and without delay. It again pays tribute to the current Chairman of ECOWAS and to that organization for the important role they play towards restoring peace and security to the three countries of the Mano River Union. The Council requests the Secretary-General to consider what support the international community, and in particular the United Nations, might provide to ECOWAS in order to ensure security on the border that Guinea shares with Liberia and Sierra Leone, and to report in that connection to the Council as soon as

possible. The Council supports the appeal made by the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS for an urgent meeting of the Heads of State of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone under the auspices of ECOWAS and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

"The Security Council expresses deep appreciation for the Government of Guinea for hosting a large number of refugees. The Council is concerned by the growing hostile attitude among the local population towards refugees, and urges the Government of Guinea to take urgent measures to discourage the propagation of such anti-refugee feelings.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern over the fate of all those who continue to live in a state of insecurity, especially the local populations and the tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. It urges all the competent organizations to ensure that humanitarian relief continues, and it underlines the importance of integrated action by the United Nations agencies, acting in coordination with the Government of Guinea and with the support of ECOWAS. The Council believes that humanitarian assistance in secure locations must be made available not only to displaced refugees and Guineans, but also to those refugees returning to Sierra Leone. The Council calls on the Secretary-General and UNHCR to ensure that suitable programmes of

reintegration and assistance exist and are enhanced where security permits in Sierra Leone. It also recognizes the important role of the international community and the competent non-governmental organizations in providing the humanitarian relief which the local populations, the refugees and the displaced persons so sorely need. The Council is concerned over the security of humanitarian personnel working in Sierra Leone and Guinea. It calls on all the parties concerned to facilitate the work of the humanitarian organizations. It urges the parties to guarantee the security of refugees and displaced persons, and the security of the staff of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations. The Council also reaffirms the need to respect the civilian character of refugee camps.

"The Security Council welcomes the proposed Inter-Agency multidisciplinary mission to West Africa, supports its earliest possible departure to the region and looks forward to its report and recommendations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2000/41.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 25 p.m.



Security Council

Fifty-fifth year

Provisional

4253rd meeting

Friday, 22 December 2000, 10.30 a.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Lavrov	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Argentina	Mr. Mársico
	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	Canada	Mr. Heinbecker
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Kasse
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Scheffers
	Tunisia	Ms. Achouri
	Ukraine	Ms. Filipenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Stoffer

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in
Sierra Leone (S/2000/1199)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.



The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
(S/2000/1199)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United

Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, document S/2000/1199.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/1224, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1334 (2000).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.